

AN UNLIKELY SPEAKER FOR GOD

Numbers 22-24

Actors are paid to play roles – T. V. – “Playing For Time”. Balaam was hired to play a role. Pagan Kings were not equipped to deal with Israel and her God. Sihon, Amorite King, was slain 21:21-24. Og: King of 60 communities defeated – V. 33-35. Because of these events Balak, King of Moab sought help.

How are we influenced by the things we see? Matt. 6:31. Balak moved by – Israel. Sianai fire and smoke, cloud led by day, ate manna, defeated Pharaoh, water from a barren rock. Lord, ready to give them the land. They occupied East side of Jordan River. They took Amorite country by force. 22:1-3 – King Balak alarmed.

I. PETITION – 22:4

1. Balak – V. 4

Who was Balak and why was he fearful? How did he express his fear? No record of military strength of Moab – Israel had 600,000 fighting men – 26:2, 51.
Ox needs huge amounts of grass.

2. Balaam – V. 5

Who was Balaam and how did he get his ability as a soothsayer? V. 7 – Professional diviner, could be hired to perform acts of fortune-telling. A reputation.
Neh. 13:2. 2 Peter 2:15. Jude 1:11. Rev. 2:14.
Traveled 400 miles each way to Moab.

3. Banning – V. 5B-6

What motivation did Balak use in seeking to get Balaam to curse Israel? Was professional cursing of people something common in ancient times? Wot – “know”.

V. 8-14 – Why did he refuse to go? V. 15-21 – Why did he decide to go? V. 18.

V. 22-35 – What role did the adversary angel and talking ass play? Describe the three beatings. (Left the road for the field, jammed his foot against the wall, balked, V. 28-30 dialogue.)

V. 31-34 – Eyes open. V. 35-41 – High place of Baal.

II. PARABLE – 23:1

1. Assignment

V. 1-6 – Seven altars. V. 7-10 – Everything is said twice. What desire is expressed in V. 10.

2. Accusation – V. 11

Why was Balak upset that Balaam blessed Israel instead of cursing her?

3. Answer – V. 12

How could God use a pagan diviner to speak to Balak?

V. 13-26 – God's Word not reversible.

III. PROPHECY – 24:17

V. 10 – Balak listened in horror.

V. 11 – The kind of honour Balak had in mind, no man of God needs.

V. 17 – To whom was the prophecy referring?

Double fulfillment: David – 400 years later smote Moab. Jesus – greatest star and sceptre.

CONCLUSION:

Were Balaam's temptations real? How can we tell whether things we hear today are valid proclamations? How do we determine whether something is true to the Word of God? Balaam's guilt and failure.

1. Josh. 24:9 – Sought to alter Word of God.
2. 2 Peter 2:15 – Loved wages of unrighteousness.
3. Rev. 2:14; Num. 31:16 – Taught people to sin.
4. Josh. 13:22 – Came to a woeful end.

THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER: A SHAKEN MAN

Acts 16

Paul is on a missionary journey – Silas is with him. Timothy is picked up along the way. Team wanted to go from Mysia up to Bythynia, but a man in Macedonia calling for help, changed their direction. How would you respond to the question “What must I do to be saved?” Tell how you would answer a person with this need. How about the four spiritual laws? Do you know how to show a person how to be saved. Is the jailer the only person to ask that question?

Gospel to Macedonia

- 15:36 – Second Missionary Journey. V. 37–40 – Paul and Barnabas part.
- 16:1–4 – Timothy joins Paul. V. 6–8 – Comment on what you think “Forbidden of the Holy Spirit to preach in Asia, to go into Bithynia, reveals the way the Holy Spirit has control over their lives.”
- V. 9 – Vision at Troas. Explain “The man pleading.” – The new call. V. 10 – The immediate response.
- V. 11 – 15 – The blessed results. “Straight Course”. Found the place of prayer. Lydia’s heart was opened.
- V. 16–17 – Picture of Demoniatic Possession. Slave girl connected with the worship of the snake at Delphi.
- V. 18 – Paul commanded the evil Spirit to come out.
- V. 19–24 – Picture of selfishness and cruelty.
Owners of the girl angered at economic loss. Missionaries put on trial.
- V. 20–21 – Charges, why? V. 22–24 – List the punishment, how did jailer carry out the orders.

I. CONDITIONS – V. 25

1. Singing – V. 25
Why did Paul and Silas pray and sing at midnight in prison? Couldn’t God have given Paul and Silas an easier way to evangelize others? Our lives are observed and our words heard. What hymns were they singing?
2. Shaking – V. 26
Was the earthquake of natural or of supernatural origin? (Acts 12:5–11 – Peter delivered)
3. Supposition – V. 27
Why don’t the prisoners escape – they had the opportunity? Why was the jailer terrified?
V. 28 – Suicide prevention – Paul stopped the jailer, what can we do? Some cities have phone numbers, etc.

II. CONVERSION

1. Trembling – V. 29
A symbol for all seekers of the truth – called for light.
2. Telling – V. 30
What caused the warden to ask the missionaries how to be saved? How did he know to ask about salvation?
3. Teaching – V. 31–32
What answer did Paul give. The Word!
Money may not grow on trees, diesel fuel may! Melvin Calvin, nobelist in the field of chemistry says a capaiba tree in Brazil can be tapped to yield 10–20 liters of diesel fuel in a 2-hour period. He has taken sap from the tree, put it in the gas tank without any alterations or refining and it ran fine. Says sap from this tree has long been used as a perfume, ointment, etc. It may be used to meet our energy crisis.
List some ways you can help unsaved people hear the Word.

III. COMPASSION

1. Favor – V. 33
What resulted from the Word of God being spoken to the warden’s household?
Chrysostom observed – “He washed and was washed: He washed them from their stripes, and he himself was washed from his sins.” Jailer did not delay in doing what he knew God wanted him to do – the same hour of the night!
2. Fellowship
V. 34 – Feeding. What acts of compassion by the warden indicated his change of heart? What happened to the warden and his family after the missionaries left?
Distressing to have to work with those devoid of joy. One group in a city formed a club, “Dull men’s club”.
Motto’ “We’re out of it and proud of it.” 50 joined at \$3.50 membership fee.
V. 35–40 – Release and Departure.

CONCLUSION:

Through what specific acts of kindness and compassion can Christians express their love to God and others? On Christmas Eve, Communist Prison, Christmas Carols being sung in nearby cell, he joined in, sense of fellowship. When this man was told he could leave the prison, he sang, God Be With You – “Til we meet again. The reply came back – “By his Counsels guide, uphold you.” They shared in dark prison.

APOLLOS: A LEARNING TEACHER

Acts 18 and I Cor. 3

How important is education in the church? Is there room for more training? Why does the church choir need special training? Does a person ever reach the stage in life when he can say "I'm educated"? What areas of life are we constantly learning?

1. Share something you learned by reading a book or hearing the news this week.
2. Share some new food you learned to cook or eat this week.
3. Share some new skill you learned on the job or hobby or craft you discovered this week.
4. Share some new spiritual knowledge you have gained this week.
5. Discuss how every Christian is a teacher and why he must be a learner.

Apollos – Learned man, great abilities, did not have the complete picture of his subject. The story tells what to do with "incomplete" teachers.

I. EXPLANATION – Acts 18:1

1. Ending The Second Missionary Journey – V. 1 – (Paul)

V. 1 – Athens – hardest field to plant seed of the Kingdom.

V. 3 – Tentmaker – V. 2 – Aquila and wife Priscilla.

V. 4 – Reasoner – out of the Scriptures 17:2.

V. 5 – Witness – testified Jesus was the Christ.

V. 6 – Protestant – protested against unreasonable opposition and blindness. Shook dust off and went to Gentiles.

V. 7–8 – Soul Winner – chief ruler of Synagogue won – God's Word not return void.

V. 9–10 – Beloved of God – find the following words: Cheer – counsel – peace – assurance – promise – hope.

V. 12–17 – Despised by men. V. 12 – With one accord they were against Paul. Every preacher of the Word will meet opposition by self-righteous, because the Gospel finds out their sins!

V. 18–23 – Travels on to Ephesus, Antioch.

2. Eloquence – V. 24–25 (Apollos)

Consider the strength of Apollos:

A. Eloquent speaker.

B. Thorough knowledge of the Scripture. Do we take advantage of opportunities to gain better understanding of the Scriptures?

C. Instructed in the way of the Lord. What do you think this means?

D. Enthusiasm. In what areas of your life do you need to be filled with God's enthusiasm?

E. Taught facts of Jesus. (No known symbol of baptism – death – burial – resurrection of Jesus.)

F. Spoke boldly in the synagogue. Why is it important that we worship and study with other Christians?

3. Exposition – V. 26

What limited Apollos in his ministry of declaring truth to others? Whom did God use to inform Apollos?

They could have branded him a heretic, but chose to take him aside for better understanding. How would you have reacted if you had been Apollos? Are you willing to be instructed by another Christian? What is your responsibility to another Christian who needs instruction? How can you accomplish this task of building up rather than tearing down?

II. EFFECTIVENESS – V. 27

1. Exhortation – V. 27

Why did Christians in Ephesus give Apollos a letter to take to Achaia?

2. Encouragement – V. 27–28

What did Apollos do after he received the additional information? How did he help the Christians at Achaia?

III. EXAMPLES – I Cor. 3:5–9

1. Responsibilities

Apollos' ministry at Corinth successful. I Cor. 1:10 – Divided Church. V. 11–12 – Contentions based on personalities and parties. Peter group, Paul group, Apollos group, Christ group. V. 13–17 – Paul's answer, we belong to Christ. I Cor. 3:5 – Why was Paul so upset with this church? What is the difference between a spiritual and carnal person? (Earned life is centered around self rather than God.)

V. 6–7 – How did Paul view himself and Apollos in comparison to God? Do you understand his agricultural illustration?

2. Relationships – V. 9

Put yourself in this verse, where are you to work? How can you help your church?

CONCLUSION:

Are you full grown in your learning? A boy comes home from school his first day. His mother asked, do you like school? What did you learn? The boy mumbled "Not much, I did not learn to read or write, and worst of all – my teacher says I have to come back tomorrow." Will you pledge yourself to be a learner.

PREPARING THE WAY

Matthew 3

List ways preparation is made for an expressway

Why is this preparation necessary?

What preparation do we need in leading a person to know Christ?

Whitestone Church: Spent 10 months in preparation for an evangelistic effort. Members were called upon to put the Lord first in their lives. The results were great. Five years later the church was down and said lets have another effort. No preparation was made and the results were poor. What can be done to prepare a church for a fruitful hearing of God's Word? What can a church do to prepare its community for the Gospel?

What does an advance man do?

What is a Forerunner?

Isa. 40:1-11 - Prophesied Forerunner.

Mal. 3:1

Matthew 11:7-15 - Prophecy Fulfilled.

John 1:19-23 - John declared himself the promised forerunner.

Luke 1:5-80 - Background on John the Baptist.

His father, Zacharias, V. 1, 13, Served as Priest in Temple. V. 7 - His wife, Elizabeth, was barren. V. 35-40, Mary, a relative came to visit to share the news - Jesus and John. John was a popular name in Jesus' day, Baptist, designation the "baptizer", he administered the rite of baptism. Acts 19:4.

I. EXPLANATION - Matt. 3:1-4

1. Declaration - 1-3

How was John a bridge between the two Testaments?

To what command did John give special emphasis?

What message do you find in this passage for the unsaved?

V. 3 - Describe John's Work -

Kings in travel had road work done before the journey.

2. Details - V. 4

What is suggested as to his clothes and diet.

II. EXPRESSION - V. 5-6

1. Audience - V. 5

What kind of audience did John attract?

2. Acceptance - V. 6

Dr. A. T. Robertson said, "This confession was probably as each came to be baptized." Baptism, not a new rite to Judaism. It had been used for purification purposes and Gentiles who wanted to become proselytes to Judaism were baptized. The other two requirements were circumcision and the offering of a sacrifice.

III. EXHORTATION - V. 7-12

1. Reaction - V. 7-10

V. 7 - How did he rebuff the Pharisees and Saducees that came?

Generally the Pharisees and lawyers were not baptized of John. Luke 7:28-30.

V. 8 - Is it right to ask for evidence, proof of ones intention toward Christ?

V. 9 - What did he say about Abraham? Ancestry not saved, but faith. John 8:33, 39.

V. 10 - What will happen to people who do not repent? Root - axe is laid at source of life. Fruitless are removed.

2. Reference - V. 11-12

V. 11 - I baptize you in water as a result of repentance (Dr. C. B. Williams)

V. 12 - What happens to wheat and chaff?

Why is Judgement necessary?

CONCLUSION:

Robert Dale said when I preached in Madrid, a layman (Antonio) would come up and place a piece of paper on the pulpit with a number, 1-3 or four. Dale asked Antonio, "What does this mean? The layman said, "This is the number of people I have witnessed too, and I have them here tonight, I want them saved, I hope you will give them the Gospel." More laymen need to become forerunners and say, "I have these people ready."

GOD SENDS THE SAVIOUR

Matt. 1

My personal evaluation: Christmas 1980.

1. My definition of Christmas is --
2. My Holiday activities that reflect this definition of Christmas are --
3. This meaning of Christmas is reflected in my home by --
4. Non-Christians will know my definition of Christmas by --

Think of the most meaningful Christmas that you have ever experienced -- what caused it to be so special?

List customs of different lands in celebrating Christmas.

I. PROBLEM – Matt. 1:18–19

1. Pregnancy – V. 18

What is the meaning of Espoused? (Originally meant Betrothed or having been promised, pledged, a formal betrothal preceded the actual marriage by periods of 12 months or so. The couple treated as though married except they did not begin to live together. A legal document fixing the dowry and legal points of mutual obligations. A serious binding made and a meal was served.

What kind of person do you think Mary was?

(Descendant of David 1:17; one sister John 19:25; Kinswoman of Elizabeth Luke 1:36; Deeply pious Luke 1:46–56; Spiritual Luke 2:51.)

The Roman Catholic Church differs from our view. A dogma by Pope Pius IX, December 8, 1854 holds The Immaculate Conception of Mary, from the first instant when she was conceived by her mother, was free from all stain of original sin.

The miraculous conception by Mary – she was acted on by the Holy Spirit in a miraculous way.

How have human beings entered this world? How did Adam and Eve get here? How did Cain and Abel get here? How did Isaac get here? How did John the Baptist get here? How important is the Doctrine of the Virgin Birth?

What is the significance of Jesus being born to a human mother?

2. Plan – V. 19

What special faith did Joseph have to have?

What was Joseph's first reaction to the knowledge that Mary was expecting a child?

II. PROPHECY – V. 20–23

1. Source – V. 20

Give an analysis of the situation – thoughts of Joseph.

2. Salvation – V. 21

What does it mean to be saved from our sins?

What does the name mean?

(Jesus is Greek form of Hebrew Joshua; Jehovah our Salvation.)

3. Significance – V. 22–23

Isaiah 7:10–14. Prophecy fulfilled.

What does the name Emmanuel mean?

(God with us, idea of "gathering together, uniting them.")

III. PROCEDURE – V. 24–25

1. Conformity – V. 24–25A.

How did Joseph respond to instructions of the angel?

2. Consecration – V. 25 B.

What role did Joseph play in Jesus' birth?

Luke 2:21–24

CONCLUSION:

What would Mary and Joseph say to us today about Jesus? How can we share the meaning of Christmas with the unsaved? Instead of a "hassle" let us turn the season into a time of worship.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Matthew 5

How important is light? Have you ever known a blind person? Can the world get along without the sun? Do we need light for the New Year? Can you support one or two good resolutions as you face the New Year? We focus on the Sermon On The Mount, Jesus is speaking to his Disciples. He explains what discipleship is like – what would be their experiences – what would be their rewards.

I. CONDITIONS – V. 1.

1. Hillside – V. 1-2

Luke 6:17-19. Sinai of the New Dispensation. Moses brought 10 words on tables.

Jesus brought several Beatitudes, these are saturated with His Spirit, just as an orange is filled with its juice.

V. 2 – Impressive as he taught the twelve were seated around.

2. Happiness – V. 3-13

What does the word “Blessed” or “Blessedness” mean?

V. 3 – How does he describe the Kingdom man?

(The Kingdom of Heaven is the rule of Heaven. It is the rule of God in men.

Did you ever see any happy poor folks?

(Is Jesus saying blessed are ye poor folks, you’ve got to get out and beg and you don’t know where your next meal is coming from. You are blessed because you haven’t got anything?)

The idea is that in that day the rich man or well-to-do man had the favor of God. They did not feel the need to repent, that is why Jesus said it is hard for rich men to enter.

Poor man does not congratulate himself, telling everybody how important he is!

First condition for entrance into the Kingdom is poor in Spirit. He has self-depreciation and not pride. If you have nothing, then you are willing to feel your need – blessed are ye.

V. 4 – Why would Jesus say mourners are happy? What caused man’s spiritual poverty? Sin! There must be sorrow for sin.

What does Jesus promise? John 14:16-18.

V. 5 – What does meek mean? Psalm 37:11. Contriteness of heart. This does not mean that you are to be a doormat for humanity. They shall inherit the land of God. (Land of promise a symbol of rest for the Christian.)

V. 6 – What helps when there is physical hunger and thirst? What brings satisfaction?

Isaiah 55:1-2 – How hungry are people for righteousness?

V. 7 – Why do only the merciful obtain mercy? The heart is closed and he cannot receive mercy. Rewarded – Prov. 15:1.

V. 8 – What is the meaning of the term “Pure in Heart”. I John 3:2-3.

V. 9 – Why are the Peacemakers called children of God? Why are they needed in the church and world? Why are they called children or sons of God? They do what the Father does, they are his sons, He is a peacemaker.

Do you know how to “pour oil on troubled waters”?

V. 10 – Is it strange that anyone would be persecuted for trying to do good? Note the promised blessing. John Bunyan spent time in Bedford jail for preaching.

V. 11 – Who are we identified with when we are persecuted for the Lord’s sake?

V. 12 – How is it possible to be glad when we are being persecuted?

II. FIRST COMPARISON

1. Designation – V. 13

What are the characteristics of salt without savor? What are properties of salt? Something will happen to you when you become salt!

III. SECOND COMPARISON

1. Demonstration – V. 14

V. 14 – What characteristic does Jesus refer to? V. 15 – “Men never hide their light.”

V. 16 – How are we light? Glorify – Give expression that God is Savior.

Note – It is not necessary for a light to call attention to itself, not have to say “look how good I am.”

CONCLUSION:

How can we apply the Christian message? What can we expect as Disciples of Christ?

Most important relationship to the world is that we are to be different. John 1:5 (TLB)

“His life is the light that shines through the darkness – and the darkness can never extinguish it.”

MATTHEW PRESENTS THE MESSIAH

Matthew 1, 5, 13

How many times in life have you had to wait for the fulfillment of a promise?

Remember the times you waited for Christmas, Birthday, Graduation, etc.

Describe the situation as the Jews waited for The Messiah.

Who is Jesus? What are the characteristics of Jesus that reveal him as The Messiah?

I. RECORD – Matt. 1:1

1. Genealogy – V. 1.

What is the significance of the genealogy in Matt.?

Find in this verse names used to describe Jesus.

Read Isaiah 7:14 and Matt. 1:23. What is the name that Isaiah and Matthew used for Jesus?

Read Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1. What prophecy and fulfillment are found in these verses?

2. Groupings – 1:17

Fourteen generations – Three great periods of history.

II. REQUIREMENT – Matt. 5:17-20

1. Purpose – V. 17

Does Matthew picture Jesus as an opponent of Jewish law?

How did Jesus fulfill the law without destroying it?

Why did the Jews feel threatened by anything that tampered with the law? Deut. 18:15-18.

2. Predictions – V. 18-19

If Jesus was in harmony with the law why was he out of harmony with the Pharisees? V. 17.

Rather than disparaging the law, what does Jesus say about it? V. 18.

One jot or one tittle – refers to dotting every "I" and crossing every "T".

V. 19 – Did Jesus teach people to be lax in their obedience to the law?

What does "break" the law imply?

3. Prerequisite – V. 20

Describe this righteousness. Did he want the people to be like the Scribes and Pharisees?

III. RESPONSE – Matt. 9:9

1. Collector – V. 9A

At Capernaum 9:1. Receipt of custom – receive taxes for Roman Government. 18:17.

(Income Tax 1%)

Poll tax, land tax 10% of all grain – 1/5 of wine and fruit grown.

2. Call – V. 9B

IV. REVEALER – 13:51-52

1. Inquiry – V. 51

He told them seven Kingdom parables – Chapter 13.

Sower, wheat, mustard seed, etc.

2. Instruction

He had trained the Disciples, now as householders. They were to bring out the new and old laws of the Old Testament, and new truths learned from Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

Give one way you can proclaim Jesus.

How should we feel about the Jews?

HEARING GOD'S COMMANDS

Deuteronomy 10-11

David is good hearted, very likeable, but he is very careless about many practices. He does not have strong resistance against lying or breaking the law. On occasion has had moral lapses when situations posed temptations. He does not hesitate to misrepresent facts about his taxes.

Because you like David and believe he has many good qualities, you try to talk to him about these acts of disobedience. David's response is that external actions are not important to his spiritual life, as long as he has the right spirit.

Explain the relationship between proper spirit and external obedience – why can the two never be separated?

Bumper Sticker: "I am a fool for Christ! Whose fool are you?" The young lady driving the car did not put a dime in the basket on the on-ramp at Independence Blvd. How do you react to such external acts?

Conversation: Wife: Honey, we've been married for three weeks. Isn't it time you found a job? Husband: Darling, I love you. Wife: But we are out of food and have no money. Husband: Don't worry. I love you. Wife: You know the rent is due next week, don't you? Husband: Don't worry about it. I love you. Wife: Here is a stack of bills due this month. Husband: No problem. I love you.

What is wrong with the husband's attitude? How does God expect his people to express love for him? James 1:22.

Lesson: Great Covenant renewals, Book of Deuteronomy. A repetition of history and laws contained in three foregoing books. Our introduction will begin with Josiah King of Judah. He was eight years old when anointed and at age 26 gave an order to repair the Temple of Jerusalem.

I. READING – 11 Kings 23:1-2

Things were bad and finding Deuteronomy led to reform.

1. Congregation – V. 1.

V. 1 – Who took the initiative and why did he call the leaders first?

2. Covenant – V. 2.

How many were present for this event?

How much of the book was read?

V. 3 – How was the Covenant ratified? Moses had called for a commitment – Ex. 24:3.

Deuteronomy Divided – Three Discourses.

(1) 1:1-4:43 – Original Covenant. God's Protection.

(2) 4:44-26 – Reverance of their Faith. Temptations would come but they were to remain pure.

(3) 27 - Points to faith and future. Dedication to task at hand.

(4) 32 – Epilogue – relates to Moses death and Joshua.

II. REQUIREMENTS – Deut. 10:12-18

1. God's Demands – V. 12-13.

Moses Day – Pagan Worship – Appeased the Gods.

V. 12 – What do you notice about what God asked of Israel? Micah 6:8. God makes known what he wants.

What are some of the Key Words –

V. 13 – What else is apparent in the expectations of God? How much emphasis is placed on the proper spirit in this passage? 6:4-10.

What is the purpose of the commandment of God?

2. God's Delight – V. 14-15

How do we know that the Lord did not give Commandments just to show his power?

Why does God allow men a choice between obedience and disobedience?

3. God's Dealings – V. 16-18.

V. 16 – What kind of circumcision is of most interest to the Lord? Gen. 17:10-11.

V. 17 – Why should man give such total allegiance to the Lord?

V. 18 – Note the special care.

III. REVERENCE – Deut. 10:19-11:1

1. Motive – 10:19

What evidence did Israel have of the power of God? (Bondage in Egypt.)

2. Majesty – V. 20-21.

3. Multiplication – V. 22.

Gen. 46:27; 15:13. Ex. 20:37. (70 to 3 million.)

4. Memory – 11:1

How were they to respond to his greatness?

CONCLUSION:

Are we doing all that we can to get others to obey God's law? What motivations do God's people have for doing what he requires?

TAKE MY YOKE

Matthew

Why does a farmer use a yoke on his animal.

A man got his tongue tangled and intended to say "Life is no easy bed of roses" -- It came out "Life is no rosey bed of easies."

Jesus is giving the meaning of Discipleship and he did not follow an easy path.

10:16-23 - WARNING HIS WORKERS

V. 16-17 - Two Qualities - (1) Wariness of a serpent. (2) Simplicity of a dove.

Until Roger Williams - 1636 decreed the right for one to worship God according to dictates of his conscience. There was no nation that had granted Religious Liberty.

V. 23 - Do not invite persecution foolishly.

V. 28-30 - Encouraging His Disciples.

Fear not failure or persecutors, I give assurance of success.

V. 34-39 - Challenging His witnesses.

V. 37 - Some of your kin folk may turn back when you follow Christ.

V. 40-42 - Identifying with his Disciples. Cup of cold water.

12:1-9 - PHARISEES ACCUSE

Law of Moses had grown by tradition to over 1600 regulations. Example: Rule not eat an egg laid on Sabbath - unlawful. Another rule, the egg could be eaten if the hen was killed for laying it. Rule, unlawful for woman to look into mirror on Sabbath, for fear she might see a gray hair and be tempted to pull it out.

V. 10-12 - Withered Hand.

V. 14 - How did they decide to preserve their tradition?

V. 24 - They called him names.

V. 30-32 - Blasphemy

V. 36 - Watch your words.

V. 39 - Opposition mounted.

11:1-6 - ASSURANCE TO JOHN

Remember there was steadfast opposition to Jesus.

I. INQUIRY

1. Asking - V. 2-3

Where was John and what did John want to know about Jesus?

What about learning things second-hand? Why did John need assurance?

2. Answering - V. 4-6

What was Jesus' answer to John? Isa. 35:4-6.

V. 5 - What activities are mentioned.

V. 6 - Person who finds fault with Christ cuts off his source of blessing.

V. 7-15 - Tribute to John.

V. 16-24 - People criticize and reject.

II. INSIGHT - V. 25

1. Revering - V. 25-26

How did Jesus address God? In what sense has God hid the Gospel from the wise and understanding?

Does this mean that the Gospel is not logical? Can we conclude that the reasoning of the world is often illogical? How can babes understand what wise men cannot?

2. Revealing - V. 27

III. INVITATION - V. 28

1. Yielding - V. 28

What are the differences in labour and heavy laden? What does Jesus promise?

2. Yoking - V. 29-30

What is a yoke? (Discipline, direction, destiny.)

How do work and rest relate to each other in this verse?

What kind of yoke does the Lord promise His followers?

CONCLUSION:

Suggest a way that you can wear Christ's yoke more effectively. Read Lamentations 3:27, why is this true?

GOD CREATES PERSONS

Genesis 2

The child asks: "Where did I come from?" Give the usual answers. Make a list of reasons why God created mankind. List the ways in which man differs from the remainder of creation. For example – "Man is different from a dog in these ways"

What is often the great contrast between Science and the Genesis account of Creation? A Science Class often finds it fashionable to scoff at religion and The Bible. Science seeks answers to what and how – Genesis presents answers to who and why.

Give your answer to the challenge – "What makes you think there is a god?"

Student of faith gave this evidence – "Look at your own hand. Twenty-seven bones are precisely shaped and joined together. 15 large muscles in the forearm close the hand with a powerful grip. 20 more muscles in the hand itself enable palm and fingers to move individually. Each finger has a nail to give firmness to the tip that extends beyond the central bone. Ligaments and tendons tie the whole together to form an instrument wonderfully adapted to purposes that range from holding a shovel to threading a needle, or playing a violin. Can you believe your hand was not designed by someone with intelligence?"

Gen. 1 – Night gave way to dawn. 1st day in history. Sky, sea, dry land, grass, trees, clouds, sun, moon, stars, animal life.

I. ADAM IN EDEN – Gen. 2:4

"And God said" – what does that mean and resulted.

1. Growth – V. 4–6

How was the earth watered before God caused rain to fall upon it? (Third day of Creation, dry land) earth brought vegetation. 1:9–13 – No rain – No one to cultivate crops, care for orchards – some students conclude no rain till 40 day flood in Noah's time – fog – heavy dew – mist.

2. Ground – V. 7

Did God form the first man by means of an evolutionary process?

Dust – common stuff. Verified by chemical analysis the elements found in the human body are also in the earth. Breathed into – Note difference from animals, creative touch, life. Living soul. He is a soul, image of God.

3. Garden – V. 8–9

What makes man different from animals, rather than deriving from them? Where was the Garden of Eden – where God placed Adam? Why were fruits from the tree of life and tree of knowledge of good and evil forbidden to Adam? Beauty – Describe this garden. Sin barred man from tree of life. Gen. 3:22–24.

V. 17 – Knowledge – Know enough to obey God and good and evil. Rev. 22:1–2, 17, access to the tree.

II. ADAM AND ANIMALS – 2:18

1. Problem – V. 18

What is meant by "Not Good"? What does the word "Help Meet" imply? (Suitable, appropriate, mate, help, not inferior. Ps. 33:20.)

2. Parade – V. 19–20

How could Adam name all of the animals? Names held special significance, Indians, relate some name with meaning.

III. ADAM AND EVE – 2:21–25

1. Invention – V. 21–22

What is the basic material of woman? Explain how this new being was created. God wanted Adam to have a wife but does he want this for every man?

2. Integration – V. 23–24

What was unique about the creation of the first woman? How does V. 24 work? Is it wicked for man to put them apart? Matt. 19:7–9.

3. Innocence – V. 25

Why were Adam and Eve unashamed although they were naked? Life-giver – 3:20. Wife – 2:25. Why do we have a wedding ceremony for couples today?

CONCLUSION:

What purposes and work were assigned to man by God? Look for five in 1:28–30 and 2:9–17. How well is man doing in achieving the purposes of God. Why is it important for man to think of himself as a special creation of God? Think through – replenish, subdue, have dominion, cultivate, and obey God.

A mother told her 4-year-old the stork brought him. His reply "you know that new kid up the street? He came from Chicago." The mystery at times explains we come from the cabbage patch or little black bag. One authentic account of origins – "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth . . ."

NEW LEADERS FOR NEW TIMES

Judges 2

Dark period of history between death of Joshua and rise of Samuel. Word l-e-a-d-e-r – think of qualities of effective leaders – Acrostic.

L
E
A
D
E
R

How do leaders influence our lives? What is the relationship between a church's leaders and obedience to God's direction? In what ways do we influence others? How well do you use your influence for God? How much difference would it make in your situation if you were to exert your influence for good?

Self-evaluation. Evaluate your influence for God – 5 is the best rating.

With spouse	5	4	3	2	1
With children	5	4	3	2	1
At work	5	4	3	2	1
In the Church	5	4	3	2	1
In the community	5	4	3	2	1

Four years ago – November 18, 1978, 5:00 P. M. 900 people died, in Jonestown Jungle, Guyana. Jim Jones began religious work 1950 Peoples Temple. Moved 1977 to Guyana. Most were from California. Discuss this type of leadership. Comment on Japanese pilots trained to use plane as bombs. How do you view Hitler extermination of 6 million Jews. Give feelings of cults leaders.

Lesson today a contrast of cult leader and true Prophet. God at work in the Church as our Acrostic – long-suffering, enthusiastic, adaptable, devoted, energetic, righteous. Joshua 5:9 – Camp Gilgal. V. 12 – New Diet. V. 15 – God's land. Joshua 6:1 – Battle of Jericho. V. 15–16 – Compassed seven times. V. 20 – Victory. Joshua 7:12, 13, 20 – Sin of Achan. Joshua 10:12, 14 – God with Joshua. 13:1, 14:12.

I. SERVICE – Judges 2:6

1. Farewell – V. 6

Joshua 24:15 – He warns them of future, they were in control. Time now to become farmers. Remnants of enemies were left. Take possession!

2. Faithfulness – V. 7

Note the influence of Joshua. V. 8 – 110 years old at death. Caleb was 85 when he received his inheritance. V. 10 – What sad fact is this?

II. SPOILERS

1. Actions – V. 11

What can be done to prevent a situation developing in this way? Sins of the people.

Baal – Master, owner, or boss, various idols. Num. 25:3, one at Gad. Josh. 11:17. Fertility cults wide spread, localities etc.

V. 12 – Today one forsakes the Lord finds pleasure in wild parties, indecent shows, drunkenness, adultery.

V. 13 – Gross immoralities. Rom. 12:2 – “Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold.” As butter from a churn pressed into a “butter print”.

2. Anger – V. 14–15

How did God react to being forsaken in favor of false Gods?

Why did God allow pagans to plunder Israel and oppress her people?

III. STUBBORNESS – V. 16

1. Deliverance – V. 16

Why were they called Judges? Thirteen were raised up – can you name one of the outstanding Judges?

2. Decline – V. 17

Why were they up and down in loyalty?

3. Deliverance – V. 18

How did the Judges get their authority to do what they did? What type of deliverance did the Judge bring?

4. Decline – V. 19

Who was to blame for Israel's spiritual condition? How will the sins of parents today effect their children's destinies.

CONCLUSION:

How do we know God will not turn on Christians today? (Leaders are found drunk, spending time with harlots, taking bribes, favor abortion, homosexuality.) What does the Lord say – Isa. 8:20. What effect does T. V. have on thinking sincere Christian people? (Programs on adultery, homosexuality, divorce, drinking, etc.)

PREPARING FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

Matthew 26

It seems that the tallest and straightest pine tree would be found in an open field where there is no competition and plenty of room. Not so! The tallest and straightest are found in a thick growth where the tree must reach up to receive the benefits of the sun. The pine that stands alone is short, twisted, and of little use for lumber. What does the pine have to say to us about hardship?

Suggest a word that has opposite meaning: sorrow – defeat – hard times – suffering – death.

How would you describe difficult times? Do you expect to have difficult times because you are a Christian?

Some are unprepared for difficult times: Jimmy is 11 years old. His friend ill with a disease that prevents physical activity. Jimmy is profoundly touched after visiting his friend and announces to you, "I gave the new stereo that I got for Christmas to my friend. He can enjoy it since he is unable to run and play." You are proud of such loving generous spirit. Yet you feel the gift is too large to be appropriate. You are disturbed that he would give it away.

Can love and generosity be taught or do they develop in some other way? How can we teach children a balance between generosity and survival? Would there be danger in allowing Jimmy to give away the stereo? What?

MATTHEW 26:1 – Intensive preparations for the ordeal ahead. He builds on his teaching 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1.

I. ASSEMBLY

1. Prediction – V. 1–2

Why was Jesus concerned to prepare His disciples for his death? Did the Disciples understand it? Why not?
Passover: Give brief history of the memorial, instituted at time of deliverance from Egypt and judgment fell on first born.

Betrayed: hand some person or thing over to another.

Crucified: Process already in operation. Search for a way to destroy him. Official form of execution by Jews was stoning. Roman method was often to crucify.

2. Plot – V. 3–5

Why did the religious leaders feel such hostility toward Jesus? What groups of people assembled?

V. 4 – Why was it necessary for the conspirators to take Jesus by subtility? Did they believe it was necessary to kill him?

V. 5 – What feast day did they want to avoid? Why?

Two and half million in Jerusalem on Feast Day. 256,000 lambs slain on this day, 10 or 20 in a company to eat one lamb.

II. ANOINTING

1. Dedication – V. 6–7

What do we know about the precious ointment?

Where was Jesus at the time of this incident? Where was Bethany? What about the dining customs of the day?

2. Disagreement – V. 8–9

Why were they indignant?

In what sense was their reasoning wrong? What did the finance committee suggest as an alternative?

3. Defense – V. 10–12

How did Jesus respond to the criticism of the woman? Why would the woman's deed be remembered?

V. 11 – How should we feel about the fact that the poor are always with us?

Relate this fact to our subject: Seven people starve to death every minute in this world!

III. AGREEMENT

1. Bargain – V. 14–15

Why did Judas act as he did? Some items to consider: greed, revenge, disillusionment, manipulation.

Thirty pieces of silver – price of a slave. Exodus 21:32.

2. Betrayal – V. 16 (Keep Seeking)

V. 17–29 Last Supper (Ex. 19:1–6; 24:1–8; Jer. 31:31)

V. 21 – He told them one would hand him over and confronts Judas with his sin.

V. 30–35 – Coming Denials.

V. 36–46 – Gethsemane.

V. 47–74 – Arrest and Jewish hearing.

CONCLUSION:

What can we do to prepare for difficult times? Do you have an illustration to offer? In 1929 J. C. Penney's dry goods business was secure. He had made some unwise commitments that troubled him. He was broken physically and mentally, hospitalized. Thought of death caused him to write farewell letters to wife and son. Next morning, heard singing in chapel, he attended and they began to sing "Be not dismay'd whate'er betide, God will take care of you." He prayed, "Lord of myself, I can do nothing. Will you take care of me?" The weight lifted and the last part of his life was the best. This will work for you.

BECAUSE HE LIVES

Matthew 27:62-28:10

Eyewitness: Who are you going to believe?

John Szostak was standing five feet from the President when the shots rang out. He said it sounded like cap pistols, everyone hit the ground, an agent put a tackle on Reagan and saved him from further damage. "I was shaking like a leaf". How do we react to such a report? What makes the report of importance?

Are these headlines believable – "Laid in a Tomb, sealed, guarded, and resurrected on the third day"!
Check the statements that are true:

GUARD WOMEN

1. Saw evidence of The Resurrection.
2. Saw the resurrected Jesus.
3. Responded with fear.
4. Took some action.
5. Changed their behavior.
6. Responded with worship.
7. Responded with obedience.
8. Became redeemed followers.

Does having information about the resurrection make me a believer?

John 19:19-22 – "What I have written" – Board on the Cross. Dr. Burlison preached 13 times on this text – "You cannot get away from anything that you have signed your name to; oft times you can evade a word spoken, though the Arabs have a Proverb "The word spoken" is Master. Lawyers will tell you: "Say what you please, but don't write anything, it is evidence." Pilate determined all should read – Hebrew – Greek – Latin.

Matt. 27:39-44 – Three groups mocked – Passer-By – Priest, Scribes – Robbers.

Matt. 27:57-61 – Who observed the burial? Who was Joseph of Armathea? Who gave permission to remove the body from the cross?

I. APPROVAL – V. 62-66

1. Remembrance
V. 62-63 – What was the concern of the Chief Priest and Pharisees? Why did they recall Jesus' Words 12:40. Comment on the words "That Deceiver".
2. Recommendation – V. 64
How did the guarded Tomb make the message of the resurrection more convincing?
Were the Disciples interested in stealing the corpse? John 20:19.
3. Resolution – V. 65-66
"Go your way" was Pilate disgusted with them?
Would these two things help secure the Tomb – (1) Sealing (2) Setting a watch

II. ANNOUNCEMENT – 28:1

1. Arrival – V. 1
Why did Mary Magdalene and Mary wait until the first day of the week to come to the Tomb?
2. Angel – V. 2-4
Earthquake accomplished what? Note the angel's work.
3. Assurance – V. 5-7
V. 5 – How did the angel reassure the women?
V. 6 – How did they provide opportunity to confirm what had happened.
V. 7 – What instructions did the angel give to the women?
They were urged to believe, share, and rejoice.

III. APPEARANCE

1. Encounter – V. 8-9
What response did the women make?
Tell about the meeting with Jesus on the way back to the city?
2. Encouragement – V. 10
What was the committed message?

CONCLUSION:

What impressed you most about the resurrection of Jesus?
Is there truth in the song "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." I Cor. 15.

GOD'S ULTIMATE WORD

Hebrews 1-2:8

As a child growing up, you were not told everything your parents knew about family affairs. They revealed to you what they felt you ought to know. Sometimes you are better off not to know too much. It can also be unhealthy to believe everybody has to bend to your lack of knowledge.

An aged couple engaged in a heated argument. The woman gestured to emphasize her point. The old man waited his turn. When he was ready to present his side of the argument, she disconnected her hearing aid. Thus, she had the last word!

Everyone likes to have the last word about investments – medical attention – religion! Jerry wants desperately to know God. He was reared in a religious home. He was taught God was a Judge. He experienced more fear than love. After he was grown he looked for clues about God. What is he really like? What is the nature of God. How can you help Jerry come to a better understanding of the nature of God?

There are five studies from the book of Hebrews on God's superior revelation in Jesus Christ. Tradition says Paul was author, others say Luke, Silas, or Barnabas. Origin said 1700 years ago, "only God knows who wrote Hebrews."

A call, "For Christians to be a vital part of God's redemptive purpose." Many are content to be redeemed from sin with no concern for the Will of God in their lives. "Let us go on." 6:1. What is revelation? When did God's revelation to man begin? List some different ways this revelation came to man?

I. LIVING WORD – Heb. 1

1. Delegates – V. 1-2A (Rulers send delegates to give view point.)

V. 1 – Why did God reveal himself to different people in different ways?

"Sunday Times" – Why did he not give the revelation all at once?

Divers Manners – Many parts and ways. Illustrations of God speaking – Sinai – Burning Bush – A fleece getting wet. Fire on an altar – Dreams – Lions Den.

Fragmentary – The ocean not limited by the tea cup in man's hand, but man's ability to receive it is so limited.

Fathers – Abraham – Adam.

Prophets – Isaiah – Amos.

V. 2A – Why did not God send Jesus to start with?

Jesus is the Last Word from God. No new thing for God to speak, he has now spoken to us!

2. Description – V. 2B-4

V. 2B – He made the worlds. John 1:3. Staggers the imagination.

V. 3 – Why was Jesus so much more effective in communicating God than were the prophets?

V. 4 – Why could the angels not give an adequate revelation of God?

V. 5 – Superior – Psalms 2:7.

V. 6 – Angels give him adoration.

V. 7-9 – Pre-eminence of the son.

V. 10-12 – The eternity of the Son.

V. 13-14 – The promise – Psalm 110:1. No angel was ever promised this.

II. SAVING WORD – 2:1

1. Consideration – V. 1-3A

V. 1 – Why should we be more careful to hear the word than people before us?

Dew line - The distant early warning system in case of a missile attack. 68 radar stations from Alaska across Canada (600 million dollars), plus Pacific and Atlantic Strategic Air Command (SAC) Force which is in the air at all times. The Word of God is the distant early warning of God about drifting. 3:7-8.

Salvation a key word – 1:14; 2:3, 10; 5:9; 6:9; 7:25; 9:28. Salvation a great harbor.

V. 2-3 – Does this mean earlier revelations were unreliable? What is the answer – how shall we escape?

Do you know of one who has escaped? What must I do to be lost?

2. Confirmation – V. 3B-4

Eye witness accounts, signs, miracles, lame walk, blind see, lepers made whole.

Redemptive purpose flows on – don't let it pass you by.

III. REIGNING WORD – V. 5-8

1. Rejection – V. 5

Dignity and destiny of man – Psalm 8:4-9.

2. Reference – V. 6-8

Frustrations of reality.

"One sure thing man is not what he was meant to be". True or false?

3. Remarks – V. 9

Story not end on catalog of man's failure but "we see –"

CONCLUSION:

How are some things involved in giving Christ supreme obedience? How then shall a Christian determine his priorities? Has God ceased to speak today?

THE PIONEERING SPIRIT

Hebrews 2:10

The word "pioneer" means --

Name some areas men have been pioneers?

Weight: Jon Minnoch of Bainbridge Island, Washington, weighed 1,400 lbs. Heaviest person known to Medical History. Spent 15 months at University Hospital, Seattle, to get relief from pain, circulation, and respiratory problems and loss of movement and speech. A diet of 1200 calories per day lost 900 lbs. for him. His goal is a slim 210 lbs. "I waited 37 years to get this chance at a new life."

Inventor: Clifford Wigglesworth of South Buffalo, N. Y., assisted by two engineering specialists hopes to put an all electric automobile on the market. It would require 1,000 lbs. of batteries, and require 6 to 8 hours for recharging. The car could run 10 hours.

Archaeologist: Howard Carter opened November 26, 1922, the long lost tomb of the boy Pharaoh, King Tut -- buried 3,300 years before. It required 10 years to record the wealth and move to Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Gold statues, chairs, animals, and golden throne set with precious stones.

Explorers: Jamestown -- Appalachian Mountains -- etc. Boone, Carson, Rogers and Clark.

What makes a person a pioneer? (Blazed new trails.)

Good analogy: A ship is on the rocks and suppose the only way to rescue was for someone to swim ashore with a line, in order that, once the line was secured, others might follow. The one who first swims ashore would be the pioneer of the safety of others. Hebrews says Jesus is pioneer of our Salvation, he blazed a new trail.

Superiority to all pioneers -- 3:1

3:1-6 -- Superiority -- Moses great pioneer, his birth, development, burning bush, led Israel in wilderness, etc.

How could anyone be greater than Moses? V. 6 -- If every church member were just like me, what kind of a church would my church be? (The church only fulfills when every member "holds fast to hope unto the end.")

V. 1 -- Jesus called an Apostle -- (To go to a place appointed by the sender. One who is sent.)

He is called High Priest -- (Tells of his work. Latin for Priest is pontifex, which means a "Bridge Builder".

Builds a bridge between God and man.)

Moses failed to lead into the Promised Land. Jesus completed his mission.

3:7 -- 19 -- Moses failed because of what? Lessons from history V. 12-13. How long is the limit?

I. REALITY -- 2:10

1. Objective

V. 10A -- Note the objective of God.

2. Obedience

V. 10B -- In what senses was Jesus always perfect? In what sense did Jesus need to be perfected? What part did suffering play in the perfecting of Jesus? Title: Captain.

II. UNITY -- V. 11

1. Bonds -- V. 11A

The sanctify -- separated from sin unto righteousness.

2. Brothers

V. 11B -- What is remarkable about Jesus not being ashamed to call us brethren?

What response does this attitude of Jesus evoke from the church?

V. 12 -- Psa. 22:22. Heb. 10:25. V. 13 -- I will put my trust -- This is no game --

III. ABILITY

1. Identification -- V. 14

Pioneer of salvation must destroy our greatest enemy.

Note "partakers of flesh" -- Heb. 10:5.

V. 15 -- Often men are caught up in fear of death. 1 Cor. 15:54, 57.

V. 16 -- What is an angel? Why is it significant that Jesus was a man, not an angel?

2. Representation -- V. 17-18

What confidence can we have about approaching Jesus?

What were his temptations? (To follow his own will, to seek a crown apart from the cross, loneliness, despised, rejected. Matt. 4:1-10.)

CONCLUSION:

We are not afraid to tell a Doctor of a pain or illness -- so why should we be afraid to tell Christ of sin or weakness.

A Doctor is committed to healing -- Christ to saving. 1 Cor. 10:13.

What are some ways Christians can be pioneers today?

BUILD ON THE SOLID ROCK

Matthew 7

What is character? What is the compass?

5:44 – Why do this? First, it is a mark of sonship – V. 45.

Second, mark of superior righteousness – V. 46 and 47.

Third, mark of perfection – V. 48. (Just be like your father. A son is like his father – not hurt his father.)

Righteousness should rule the kingdom man.

The motive of this righteousness – 6:1.

V. 1 – *Why do you do the things you do as a Christian?*

V. 2 – What not to do? What is a hypocrite?

V. 3 – Figure of speech.

Preparation for prayer.

V. 5 – Be sincere.

V. 6 – Be secret.

V. 7 – Simplicity.

V. 8 – Serenity.

Fasting

V. 16–18 – Play actors.

Treasure – V. 19–21. Problem of divided interest.

V. 24 – Two owners. V. 25 – Don't get your mind divided.

Problem of needless anxiety. V. 25–34 – Birds, grass, etc.

Judgements about others. 7:1–6.

V. 1 – Don't have the habit or practice.

V. 2 – Illustrates.

V. 3–5 – Don't take Judgement Seat along.

V. 6 – Figure.

V. 7–12 – Training as children. Golden Rule.

I. WAYS – 7:13 – Roads People Travel

1. Hell – V. 13

Explain the word "strait".

What is the significance of the "strait gate"?

Why is the way to destruction described as a broad way?

2. Heaven – V. 14

Why are there said to be few that find the way of life?

II. WARNINGS – V. 15–20

1. Falseness – V. 15

What is the significance of false prophets in sheep's clothing?

What is the particular danger of a wolf in sheep's clothing?

2. Fruits – V. 16–20

V. 20 – What does the Lord mean by knowing a tree by its fruits?

What happens to a diseased tree in the orchard? V. 19.

III. WORKS – V. 21–23

1. Admission – V. 21

What does God desire of each of us?

2. Arguments – V. 22

3. Answer – V. 23

Why are there dangers in listening to every religious leader?

IV. WINDS – V. 24–29

1. Solidity – V. 24–25

2. Stupidity – V. 26–27

What did the wise man and the foolish man have in common?

3. Surprise – V. 28–29

What was there about the teaching of Jesus that astonished the people?

CONCLUSION:

How can we apply the truth in life – two gates and ways; two prophets; two kinds of fruit and trees; two foundations?

TRUST IN GOD'S VICTORY

Matthew 13

How important is education or training for effective service? How true is the statement "all education is bad"?
What do pagan textbooks and anti-Christian teachers do to education?
What good word can we say for education when it is in the hands of Christian teachers.
Do you remember any teachers who helped you in school – without education you would be unable to read today!
We often underestimate the importance of education as good in our society.

Illustration: A man once said lack of an education is like trying to cut grass with a dull lawn mower. But if you get a file and sharpen the blade, there is a big difference. Training is necessary for effective service.

Christians are not exempt from this need. Jesus knew that His Disciples needed preparation. He spent the greatest part of his earthly ministry in educating his followers.

Jesus, the Master teacher gave instructions about the Kingdom. Discuss his method of using Parables. What is a Parable? What is a fable? (Short story in which animals or objects, reason like human beings – Judges 9:7–20; 2 Kings 14:9.

Parable – earthly story with Heavenly meaning. Three parts – (1) The occasion or setting of the Parable. (2) The story itself. (3) The application or spiritual message. Seven Parables in Chapter 13.

The sower and the seed.

V. 1–2 – Occasion – Seated by sea in a ship. Clue as to why he taught. V. 11.

V. 3 – Picture man with leather bag broadcasting seed. He did not have spray equipment to fight insects, it was risky business, no way to water the crop.

V. 4 – Path – people walked across. How did the seed do?

V. 5–6 – Stony place. How did the seed produce?

V. 7 – Thorns. Note the results.

V. 8 – Good ground – list the production. Birds got some but some 100 fold, perfect. Harvest is large.

Are you going to throw in with Jesus? Visit in His name! Something is going to happen, birds get some, stones get some, good ground gets some. Listen when you get a man and his wife, you get a big harvest. What kind of soil am I?

V. 18–23 – Expounded Parable of the sower.

I. WHEAT AND TARES – V. 24–30

1. Sowing – V. 24–26

What characteristic of the Kingdom is shown by the sowing of the seed? V. 24.

2. Servants – V. 27–28

Why did the farmer not instruct the tares to be removed? Did you ever try to separate weeds from flowers?

3. Solution – V. 29–30

Are the tares always to get the same protection as the wheat? Is the ultimate purpose of the wheat destroyed by the tares? When will the Judgement take place? How will it be accomplished? How will the good and evil be separated? What will be the results of the Judgement?

II. MUSTARD SEED – V. 31–31

1. Grain – V. 31

What characteristic of the seed is being emphasized?

2. Growth – V. 32.

III. HIDDEN LEAVEN – V. 33–35

1. Penetration – V. 33

Why is the Kingdom of Heaven like leaven?

2. Parables – V. 34

What purpose did Jesus give for teaching in Parables?

3. Prophecy – V. 35

What benefit are Parables to us? How did Jesus know about leaven? How could the coming of the Kingdom be compared to leaven? How did leaven affect a loaf of bread? How can the Kingdom of God transform the world?

CONCLUSION: Concluding Parables

V. 44 – Hidden treasure – (Like) worth, precious, what a statement "He sold all that he hath."

V. 45 – Pearl of great price – Joy in satisfaction. V. 47–53 – Dragnet – Fish net pulls in all kinds, sizes, etc.

Trust – Jesus is worth selling everything – have you found the treasure, bought the pearl, what kind of soil are you?

LOVE AND FORGIVE

Matthew 17-18

December, 1978 - Science Digest reported, "Color of your eyes may reveal your character traits" - Black eyes: impulsiveness, quick temper; Blue: stamina but tendency to bog down in routine; Grey: obstinacy, courage; Hazel: stability, imagination; Light Brown: shyness, individualism; Dark Brown: thriftiness, industriousness. Do you agree with these? What is a better indicator of character? Which event in the life of our Lord on earth would you rather have witnessed?

Transfiguration - Matt. 17:1-9

V. 1 - Alone with the Lord. V. 2 - More glorious. V. 3 - Death of Christ - the most important subject under Heaven. A picture of what is yet to be experienced. Moses represented the dead in Christ who shall appear in Glory, Elijah represented those Christians who will be alive when Jesus comes, who will be changed and glorified. V. 8 - Comfort for the troubled heart. V. 9 - Resurrection is the foundation of the Gospel. Power through faith - V. 14-21. Healing at the foot of the mountain. Conquest through sacrifice - V. 22-23. Example through obedience - V. 24-27. V. 27 - Jesus never set a bad example. Took tax money from mouth of fish. Exod. 30:11-15.

I. REPENTANCE - 18:1-6

1. Concern - V. 1

Why would the Disciples ask Jesus, "who is greatest in the Kingdom?" Where do our interests lie - if we walk by faith can we leave the results to the Lord? How do men become great?

2. Conversion - V. 2-4

What audio-visual aid did Jesus use in teaching? What was the intent in using a child to illustrate his point? Why does a child seem to be such a strange illustration of humility? Why do we need conversion? (By nature we are not as little children, second we are unfit for the Kingdom, third except we be converted we cannot enter the Kingdom.)

What is the proof of conversion?

(Chinese farmer asked to give concrete proof of his conversion: "When I use to clear the stones off my fields, because it was convenient, I just tossed them over unto my neighbor's fields; but I don't do that now. I carry them and throw them into a gully or some other place, where they will not harm anybody.")

3. Contrasts - V. 5-6

What is there about being kind to a little child that especially commends itself? How does God feel about those who would cause a child to stumble - V. 6.

4. Commands - V. 7-14

V. 7-11 - What is implied by Jesus' command to get rid of obstacles that cause one to sin? What results from continuing to sin? To what group is he referring to in V. 1?

V. 12-14 - What does this parable have to say about individual worth? Why will a shepherd leave the flock to search for a stray?

II. RECONCILIATION - V. 15-17

1. Contact - V. 15

What should the Christian do when a brother sins against him? What is the first step?

2. Correction - V. 16-17

What if the brother will not hear? What is second step? Deut. 19:15. What is the third step? V. 17. Gal. 6:1.

III. REQUESTS - V. 18-22

1. Agreement - V. 18-19

Why would the church be involved in a personal matter? What happens when reconciliation is not accomplished? Why is it important for Christians to see loving relationships? When is prayer answered? V. 19. (Harmony - agree - musical instruments which make the same sound. Marriage is like that, a symphony.)

2. Assembly - V. 20

How is Christ involved?

IV. RESTORATION - V. 21-22

1. Conclusion - V. 21

How many times did Peter expect to forgive someone? V. 22 - What did Jesus say? (490 - was it quantity or qualitative in character?)

Illustration - V. 23-35 - High Court official called a servant who owed his King about \$10,000,000 - But the debt was cancelled by the forgiving King. However, when the man found an inferior servant who owed him the trifling sum of \$17.00, he threw the poor fellow into jail. What does this say to us?

GOD'S GENEROSITY

Matthew 20

A man spends much of his off-the-job time visiting and working with teenagers as an outreach effort of his church. What will be his reward?

A woman took special training so she could volunteer her services to fill out income tax forms for the elderly. What will be her reward?

A man has not missed attending a worship service on Sunday for twenty-five years. What will be his reward?

A mother cared for her invalid son in their home since his birth. What will be her reward?

What is your concept of rewards? On what basis does God decide the reward that will be given? Matt. 19:27 – Who is asking about rewards?

Case of rich young ruler – 19:23–26 – Huge camel can not get through a little gate.

The Polen family lived in a store building on Wilson Road. They accumulated a fortune – more than \$370,000 worth of real estate! Two sisters were beaten and gagged, one died of suffocation, as they were robbed of several diamond rings, plus \$5,000 worth of silver. Why would these two Jewish women continue to live in a boarded-up store located where people hated them? They could have had steam heat plus other decencies. They were well-to-do. What does this tell us about riches? How can riches be made a mighty power to man?

The Prince from Saudia Arabia did not appreciate being driven in an old Volkswagen from the Munich Airport to his appointment with West German Dentist Guido Riess. The Petro-dollar rich prince decided to pay his bill and provide better transportation for the future by sending Riess a Rolls Royce automobile to own. How does that fit in to the reward of generosity? That was over-payment by the wildest stretch of the imagination.

Note some places in the Bible where God's unlimited supply is spoken of — (Owns cattle on a thousand hills, etc.)

19:30 – Everyone who shares in the labor and sacrifice of the Kingdom will share in its power and rewards.

I. PROPOSAL – 20:1–7

1. Harvest – V. 1

Describe the circumstances of hiring that are in this passage? (Understanding the Kingdom of Heaven is not easy. Parable of laborers told to illustrate truth of 19:30, repeated 20:16. Harvest time, grapes ripe.

“Householder”, man owned the property. Matt. 21:33–41. The owner rented to sharecroppers.)

The owner was securing the laborers himself. Market place to get men from labor pool. The work day 6:00 A. M. – 6:00 P. M.

2. Hirings – 2–7

V. 2 – At what wage did the workers agree to work?

V. 3–4 – What agreement was made with those who were hired later in the day? Could they trust the owner?

V. 5 – Why were men still in the market place at noon and 3:00 P. M.?

V. 6–7 – Why were they still there? What was said about wages? Why did the owner keep going back for laborers?

II. PROTEST – V. 8–12

1. Payment – V. 8–9

Why did the owner do this? How did they go home?

2. Perplexity – V. 10. What was their disappointment?

V. 11–12 – What was the basis of their complaint? Is there any validity in their complaint?

III. PRONOUNCEMENT – V. 13–16

1. Agreement – V. 13–14

In what sense is there no validity to their complaint?

2. Assessment – V. 15 – Two questions.

3. Announcement – V. 16. How is it true that the last shall be first?

V. 17–19 – Disciples still did not hear.

V. 20–28 – Greatness found in service.

V. 29–34 – Compassion of the King.

CONCLUSION:

What obligation do workers have to the owner? What kind of work is to be done? How much work is each to do? How is the payment decided? How can we apply this lesson to Christian workers? Some enter the Kingdom in youth, middle age, or old age. How do we see our fellow servants? What do we think the reward of service will be?

Some things about the Master – Justice, V. 13; Faithfulness, V. 14; Sovereignty, V. 15; Judgement, V. 15.

Why did the owner keep going back looking for more laborers? Are you doing your part of his work by serving others?

WHEN GOD CHOOSES US

Deut. 6-7

Recall two different symbols of a New Year.

- 1.
- 2.

What do they suggest about choosing?

Why is an individual often ready to believe the person he knows to be the biggest liar or gossip in a community? Is it not a matter of choice? Rotarians have a four-way-test: (1) Is it the truth? (2) Is it fair to all concerned? (3) Will it build good will and better friendship? (4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned.

The word "choose" is a combination of the word Lego, "to choose", and EK, "out from"; that is to say it is a matter of selection from among all others and a taking out of that one, that it might be preferred above all others.

Arthur Stainback said, a man of political power talked to him about a certain citizen. "We are endeavoring to put up a slate of men who are CHOSEN. We are not waiting for men to decide to run for the position. We want to select the finest men possible to run for public office." David was selected by people because he was a good man. Reflect on the power of choice in electing national leaders. Napoleon, Hitler, etc.

October 26, 1859 - Sad date in Maritime history. The Royal Charter was in great trouble - engines broken down in a storm. A troop ship offered to tow the Royal Charter into port. The captain considered the terms and replied "I cannot accept the price. I choose to make it on my own." In 24 hours the ship had gone down and 490 lives lost. Short distance from shore. Why did the captain make such a choice?

What about the choice concerning Jesus -- "Crucify Him, Crucify Him".

How many choices do you make everyday? Group of boys on the playground, they decide to play ball, how do they usually choose teams?

Young people can choose to be conformists or select a high standard.

Challenge to believe - Deut. 6:16-19. They were to serve God and remember that he was God.

I. REASON - Deut. 6:20

1. Request - V. 20

What is likely to happen when children see their parents respecting the will of God?

Why not worship like other nations? How should questions of children be responded to?

2. Review - V. 21-23

What were the significant facts about the Exodus that were to be taught?

God's plan first - bring out of Egypt. Second - care for in wilderness. Third - give the promised land.

3. Regard - V. 24-25

Why would the Lord have authority to give commands to Israel?

II. RESOLUTION - 7:1-8

1. Special People

V. 1-5 - Dangers of the future. Who were they obligated to? How were they going to establish their situation?

V. 6 - What is the significance of the expression, "holy people"?

What did it mean to be chosen? Do we have the same kind of relationship today? 1 Peter 2:9, Exo. 19:5. Why did he choose Israel?

2. Special Love - V. 7-8

V. 7 - What was it about Israel that caused God to choose them instead of some other?

V. 8 - How can we know that the Lord will see us through our problems in both time and eternity? Rom. 5:8, Gen. 12:1-3, John 15:16.

III. REPAYMENT

1. Consequences - V. 9-10

In the light of this information what kind of God do we have and what kind of behavior should we manifest?

2. Commandments - V. 11

V. 12-15 - Rewards of faithfulness.

V. 20 - God's reward. Ex. 23:28, Josh. 24:12.

CONCLUSION:

What part does the Holy Spirit have in choosing us? What responsibilities go along with being chosen?

JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Matthew 3 - 4

Nazareth - His boyhood home. What information do we have about Jesus' youth. Matt. 2:23; 4:13.

River Jordan - Baptized by John. First adult appearance.

Matt. 3:13-17.

Wilderness - Tempted by Devil. Matt. 4:1-11.

Sea of Galilee - Disciples Chosen. 4:12-13; 18-22. All of Galilee - Jesus ministered. 4:23-25.

Isaiah 61:1-3. Give your first impressions of these words: ministering - teaching - preaching - healing.

Three significant things at the Beginning of His Ministry.

1. Baptized of John in Jordan River.
2. Temptation in the wilderness.
3. Called four of His Disciples.

I. APPROVAL - Matt. 3:13-17

1. Remonstrance - V. 13-14.

Why did Jesus want John to Baptize him?

V. 14 - Why was John hesitant to Baptize him? John 3:30. John 13:8. How did Peter respond during the foot washing?

Why did Jesus not go to Jerusalem rather than "unto John".

2. Reason - V. 15

Felt he needed to be baptized to identify with his cause in open commitment.

3. Revelation - V. 16-17

V. 16 - He was without sin - Baptism was later a command of all who enter the Kingdom. 28:19-20. Heavens were opened - Spirit in shape of dove. Isa. 11:2; 42:1; 61:1.

V. 17 - What is the significance of the voice of God at the time of Jesus' baptism?

II. AGGRESSION - Matt. 4:2-10

1. First Temptation - V. 2-4.

2. Second Temptation - V. 5-7.

3. Third Temptation - V. 8-10.

Proved his true humanity, as an example for us. His personal discipline and he became a part of the conflict predicted in Genesis 3:15.

III. ACQUISITION - Matt. 4:17-22

1. Summons - V. 17.

What message did Jesus preach and how did it compare to John's?

2. Summons to Fishers - V. 18-22

V. 18 - Describe the circumstances under which this first Disciple was called?

V. 19 - What is the significance of being made a fisher of men? Luke 5:1-11.

V. 20 - How did they respond?

V. 21-22 - Those who respond he uses.

IV. APPLAUSE - Matt. 4:23-25

1. Favors - V. 23

What was the general tone of the ministry of Jesus? There was only one Temple in Jerusalem but more than 500 synagogues which were used for instruction and prayer.

2. Fame - V. 24

What response was there to the work of Jesus?

3. Following - V. 25

Why was Jesus not generally acclaimed as The Messiah?

CONCLUSION:

The church is full of Christians who pay their debts and tell the truth - but some do not feel any responsibility to share the message of Christ with others. Mention some ways people can be fishers of men. To become a better Disciple in 1981, I resolve --

FACING THE FUTURE WITH GOD

Matthew 23–24

Do you ever take much time to think about the future? What will tomorrow be like? What will tomorrow bring to our children? What will the world be like twenty years from now – 2001? In what way do you think the church may be different? What about those who live just for today? Take Ralph for example. Since boyhood manifested a vigorous attitude toward life. Participated in all sorts of activities, talented in football, learned to pilot a plane and had confidence in life. Few months ago, he had two heart attacks, life crumbled and he is afraid of dying. Afraid to walk he might see a dangerous dog, afraid to drive in city traffic, and afraid of meeting new people. Was there something lacking in Ralph's previous confidence? If so, what? How can Ralph's experience be used to make his life stronger than it ever was?

Motto of Boy Scouts – "Always Be Prepared".

Some have little respect for the present or the future. Mr. D. went before Traffic Court Judge John H. McCollom in Chicago. Mr. D. was in the habit of parking his car in a forbidden section near the place where he played chess almost every evening. Most of the 314 tickets he received were from that practice. He was fined \$6,280 and agreed to pay monthly installments of \$100 for five years. Why couldn't Mr. D. see the future results of his habit?

The lesson today deals with signs of the end –

Matt. 23:1–12 – Pharisaism Exposed and Denounced

V. 1–3 – Commends laws of Moses

V. 4–5 – Accused them of showmanship. (Large leather containers in which they carried passages of the law, called phylacteries. Bind them to the foreheads. Made them larger and larger to demonstrate piety. 6:1.

V. 6 – Social Ambition – head table, etc.

23:13–36 – Woes Like Thunderbolts (Warning)

1. V. 13 – Tragedy in form of religion. Closed the door to God's reign in Israel. They marched to the gates of Heaven but not entering nor allowing others to enter.
2. V. 15 – Distorted the faith. Fanatical about making Proselyte of others into their own sect.
3. V. 16 – Dishonesty and lying a way of life.
4. V. 23 – Ritual rule and forms more important than vital issues.
5. V. 25–26 – Artificial outward appearance.
6. V. 27–28 – Polluted within.
7. V. 29–36 – Unholy purpose out to kill Jesus. Interested in regulations not winning souls.

I. SORROW – V. 37

1. Desolation – V. 37

What is the basis of Jesus lament over Jerusalem? Instead of being a spiritual leader how is Jerusalem described? What does the symbol of the hen refer?

V. 38 – What destiny is pronounced on the city of Jerusalem by the Lord? Jer. 7:4, 11–12, 12:7.

2. Departure – V. 39

Her one hope return of Christ.

3. Destruction – 24:1

V. 1–2 – Explain Jesus' message about the Temple. Did the building look stable and indestructible? (Stones 40 foot long – 12 foot high – 20 foot wide.)

II. SIGNS – 24:3

1. Preliminaries – V. 3

V. 3 – In private the Disciples expressed curiosity – what questions did they ask?

V. 4–6 – What warning did Jesus give about the coming of the end? What do wars and other troubles tell us about the end?

2. Pestilences – V. 7–8

What do natural disasters tell us about the coming of the end?

3. Persecutions – V. 9–10

What does the increase of persecution tell us about the end?

4. Prophets – V. 11–12. False.

5. Preaching – V. 13–14

Is the suffering worth it all? What is our goal in preaching?

CONCLUSION:

What certain knowledge do we have about the end?

How can I fulfill the lesson title?

DIGNITY OF PERSONS (RELATIONSHIPS)

Matthew 19

Collections of Jesus' teachings: sacredness of marriage; teaching on divorce; attitude toward children; dangers of riches and rewards of discipleship.

I. HEALING – 19:1–2

1. Travel – V. 1

Completing his work in Galilee, his home, finished – done what he could. Went South through Peraea on the East side of Jordan and crossed the river near Jericho. Entered Judea to Jerusalem. (Route avoided Samaria.)

2. Treatment – V. 2 Compassion on the great crowds.

II. EXPLAINING – V. 3–12

1. First Inquiry – V. 3–6

V. 3 – What was the intent of the Pharisees' question about divorce?

Example: Mary and John married young. They have two children who are now grown. John has been successful in his work. Mary has made a career as a nurse. In recent years, conflict has escalated. Mary feels she has had all she can stand and is asking for a divorce.

You know God's ideal for marriage. You have made some effort to reconcile the marriage.

How is this kind of dilemma to be resolved? If they cannot be happy together is it better to separate? What difference should it make in their decision if their children were only 8 and 10 years old instead of being grown and away from home? What grounds are used for divorce? Does divorce have a penalty? One divorcee said it would not affect her children because they were so young and unaware of the proceedings – is that true. Mrs. Pete Rose says of her ex-husband, he had an ego problem, now her children suffer.

What did the Mosaic say – Deuteronomy 24:1–4. Pharisees wanted Jesus to say something foolish. John had condemned Herod's divorce. What about divorce? Is it lawful "meant" how do you interpret the laws regulation? What practice do you say is acceptable to God?

First, this question is woman versus man. The wife of a part of a man's property. He could retain or renounce her. (Eastern women had three options: marriage; prostitution; slavery.)

Second, men were cruel to women – Deut. 24:1 put limited action on the husband to give written statement. Prevented many separations. It made a woman acceptable. It protected her future husband.

Third, the command allowed divorce but caused endless debate. Rabbis focused on immorality and things that displeased a man as burned food to finding a more attractive woman. V. 2–4 – Forbade the practice of "passing a woman around."

V. 4–5 – How did Jesus respond to the problem in question? What was God's original intent for marriage? Jesus knew the laws of marriage – ideally divorce was hated, God said, "I hate putting away." Mal. 2:16. He went behind the law to the purpose of God in creation.

Gen. 1:27 – Direct command – Gen. 2:24. First, impossible to break – like parent son relationship. Second, what does cleave imply? Glued. Third, a new unit is established "one flesh".

V. 6 – What was His conclusion? Picture of "yoked together" – team work – matched. Deut. 22:10. Husband and wife a team.

2. Second Inquiry – V. 7–9

V. 7 – Why then did Moses allow divorce? Trying to get Jesus to disagree with Moses.

V. 8–9 – He knew God's ideal. He had a high view of marriage. The nation was a unity, marriage also. Jesus recognized one partner can break that unity, but remember God forgives those who confess.

3. Third Inquiry – V. 10–12

Did this appear to be a weakening of the truth on marriage?

Three Groups – V. 12 First, physical imperfection or deformity not capable of sexual intercourse. Second, those made Eunuchs by castration. Third, those who decide better off not to marry. For the Kingdom sake.

III. BLESSING – V. 13–15

1. Rebuke – 13

Why did they rebuke those who were bringing their children to Jesus? Did this show concern for the family?

2. Reception – V. 14–15.

What should we learn about Jesus' treatment of the children? What object lesson do you see? Jesus came not to bless children but give life to people and they embodied the kind of people who can receive that life.

3. Questions About Riches – V. 16–30.

CONCLUSION:

Has God changed His intent for marriage today? What is the basis of a good marriage? What is the responsibility of the church at a time of such frequent divorce? What characteristics will cause a marriage to endure?

Jan 12

Psalm 119:130 – Translated by a Chinese scholar – “God speaks and a light comes! This makes the dumb to be wise.” A simple statement of what the Bible is.

Ingersoll once shook a copy of the Bible saying, “I’ll have this book in the morgue in 15 years!” Fifteen years later he was in the morgue. Voltaire said, “The Bible would be outmoded in 100 years.” After his death, Voltaire’s house was owned by Geneva Bible Society and used to store Bibles. Not long ago 90 copies of Voltaire’s works sold for \$2.00.

Queen Victoria handed a Bible to an Ambassador from a heathen land and said, “Tell your ruler that this book is the secret of England’s greatness.”

Henry Ford said, “People don’t read the Bible enough now-a-days.” Woodrow Wilson made a pledge to read at least one chapter of the Bible every day. Lincoln said, “I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. You will live and die a better man.”

Give your reflections: “Our nation is always only one generation away from paganism.”

How was Israel threatened by pagan religion? Abraham came from Mesopotamia – A great number of Gods. Egypt, a system of dieties. Canaan – sky gods, goddess of fertility (ashtaroth), atmosphere (Baal).

Lesson: Total commitment to one God. Great movements usually have slogans or symbols. The American eagle is a symbol of our liberty. Israel had the law at Mt. Sinai. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one God.”

I. DECLARATION – Deut. 6:1–5

1. Relationship

5:32–33 – Note Moses’ plea for Israel. 6:1 – How long was the teachings to last?

V. 2 – Describe the request in relation to the fear of God.

V. 3 – Note the results of obedience.

V. 4 – What is remarkable about the Israelites confession of one God?

This section is the cornerstone of the Jewish faith. Its contents repeated daily by devout Jews. Monotheism, Jehovah is the one and only living God.

Jesus used Mark 12:28–34; Matt. 22:34–40 to express The Great Commandment, along with Deut. 11:13–21 and Numbers 15:37–41. Has become a standard daily prayer for the Jewish faith.

Hear – with understanding. The Lord – Creator, Saviour. Our God – Had seen him act, experienced personally. One Lord – unique there is no other.

2. Surrender – V. 5

What steps were taken to protect the Monotheistic faith? Note the expression – 4:29; 10:12; 11:13; 13:3; 26:16; 30:2, 6, 10. Prov. 23:7.

How successful were they in keeping the people from serving idols?

Explain the significance of loving God with all one’s heart in total commitment. Matt. 22:37–38.

II. DILIGENCE

1. Relationship – V. 6

What did these words express – V. 6. Depth of these words – Jer. 31:33; John 14:21.

2. Evidence of Relationship

V. 7 – Why is there so much emphasis on teaching the children? Every normal action of life, not hit or miss, does a child learn the multiplication tables overnight?

V. 8 – What usually happens when faith is passed to a second generation? Do visible aids help in worship? Phylacteries with Scripture references – Ex. 13:2–10; 13:11–16; Deut. 8:1–8; 11:18–21 – written on scrolls, worn on the forehead and bound to the arm. Visible reminders of the law.

V. 9 – How successful were the Israelites in communicating the faith? What were the common locations for placing segments of the law as reminders?

Some project their testimony in subtle ways – lapel pins, symbols, religious jewelry, wall plaques, bumper stickers, etc. I Sam. 16:7; Prov. 4:23.

III. DETERMINATION

1. Remembrance

V. 10–12 – What was promised Israel about their new land? Would it be easy to forget – V. 12.

2. Reverence – V. 13

Why is there a woeful lack of reverence?

3. Restraint – V. 14–15

In what sense is God a jealous God? The call for restraint is not popular but it results in rich pay.

CONCLUSION:

Is it possible for people to forget the sustainer of this whole universe? In what ways can we involve children in devotional activities? (Open Windows – Home Life Magazines)

EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE

Deut. 4:15-40

What do we know about the presence of God? Have you ever known anyone who lived in God's presence? Does God's presence make a difference?

The story told of James Whitcomb Riley, to whose home one day came a hunchbacked little boy with a tear-stained face. With trembling voice he asked, "Mr. Riley, have you seen some crooked soldiers, have you not? The famed poet saw a group of youngsters with wooden swords waiting for his answer. They had to the little crippled boy that he could not play soldier. Mr. Riley in poem reflected the heart of childhood replied: "Of course I have. Not many, though, because crooked soldiers are the bravest and the best and the hardest to get." What courage, and touch, the presence of the poet made in the life of a hunchbacked boy. The presence of God is like that.

Ebenezer: I Sam. 7:12 – Give the meaning of this Bible text. Next look up Hebrews 13:5-6 and explain how the Lord hath helped and is now helping.

Isa. 32:2 – How is God's presence a living refuge?

Relate an experience of how fear was driven from you by the presence of another person? Isa. 26:3. Matt. 28:19-20 – Give the relationship between our Lord's last words and our topic of Bible Study.

Lesson: Begins on plains of Moab, ready to cross Jordan.

Backsliding: Cause and Cure.

1. Cause

A. Forgetfulness – Deut. 4:15-23.

What about the dangers of idolatry?

B. False Worship – V. 23

C. Self-Corruption – V. 25

2. Effect

A. Dispossession – V. 26

B. Division – V. 27

C. Weakness – V. 27

3. Cure

A. Confess – V. 31

B. Seek – V. 29

C. Obey – V. 30

Politicians focus attention their virtues and accomplishments. Moses focused not on himself but on God.

I. PRE-EMINENCE – 4:32

1. Question One – V. 32

What use did the writer make of the creation in reminding of the presence of God?

2. Question Two – V. 33

What other remarkable thing that God did was referred to? Ex. 3:4; 19:16-19

3. Question Three – V. 34

What further sign had God given to indicate His presence with His people? What did God do no other God could do? Ex. 8:9-13; 9:27; 13:9; 14:14; 14:30-31. Arm – Portrayed power in use, not idle. List some of the means used to persuade Pharaoh.

II. PERFORMANCE

1. Answer One – V. 35

Why did the Lord do these mighty signs among men? Ex. 20:3.

2. Answer Two – V. 36

3. Answer Three – V. 37-38

What was it that caused God to take such good care of Israel? What tangible blessing came to Israel as a result of this love? Eph. 2:8-9

III. PROMISE

1. Exclusiveness – V. 39

God's ability to conquer Canaan indicates what transcendent power?

2. Expectation – V. 40

How was Israel to respond to this knowledge of the Lord's power? What promise was given Israel if they obeyed? What promise is given to the people of today?

CONCLUSION:

How do we experience the presence of God? (Not easy problem – creation, sea, sunset, etc.) Note various ways God becomes involved in our lives. Psalm 16:11.

COMMITMENT IN WORSHIP

Deut. 12 and 14

Define worship _____

Commitment to regular worship includes _____

Why do people worship in different ways?

Give some ideas about things to be done in preparation for worship _____

Who does God expect to worship him? What age should children be invited and at what age should they be left to decide on their own?

At what place in the worship order do you feel like a spectator. Name the place you feel like a participant.

Little boy said worship is talking to God, then listening while God talks to you, then living like you heard what He said!

Is a day of rest and worship necessary? Henry Ford said "we would have had our Model A car in production six months sooner if I had forbidden my engineers to work on Sunday . . . it took us all week to straighten out the mistakes that they made on the day when they should have rested."

Note some of the confusion associated in worship today? What suggestions could eliminate distracting factors? What type of worship service would edify – build up – strengthen?

I. INSTRUCTION – 12:5

1. Habitation

V. 1–3 – Why destroy pagan shrines? Later attempts made to do this – Asa I K. 15:11–14
Hezekiah 2 K. 18:3–4, Josiah 2 K. 23:4–25, 2 Chro. 34:3–7.

V. 5 – If God is everywhere why do we need to go to a certain place?

What is notable about the place referred to in this passage?

History – Israel: Mizpah – Shechem. Josh. 24:1. Bethel – Judges 20:18, 26, 27. Shiloh – Judges 18:31, I Sam. 1:3, 21. Jerusalem (Center).

2. Happiness – V. 6–7

V. 6 – What is the purpose of the tithes and offerings?

Burnt offerings – offerer's dedication, sacrifices – Thanksgiving, fellowship with God – Lev. 7:17.

Tithes – first fruits, measured by tenths, portion lifted up from larger mass and used by Priest.

Lev. 7:14, 32. Num. 18:8. Vows – made to God – Deut. 23:21. Lev. 27:1. Freewill offerings – without legal injunction. Firstlings of your flock – Ex. 13:11–16, Deut. 15:19–23.

V. 7 – Why did people eat in the presence of the Lord? Gen. 2:15, 1:26.

II. INHERITANCE – 12:8

1. Situation – V. 8–9

What were the people expressly warned against? Judges 17:6.

2. Settlement – V. 10

What did worship in the wilderness point to?

3. Summary – V. 11–12

Who was to share the possessions and rejoicings of the Tribes of Israel?

Ex. 23:17, I. Sam. 1:1–7, Num. 8:21.

III. INCLUSION – 14:27

1. Dependence

13:1, 5 – Put evil away. 14:2 – Kind of people. 14:27 – Why did not the Levite not have an inheritance with the rest?

2. Distribution – V. 28–29

Who benefitted from the offerings in addition to Levites?

CONCLUSION:

Why could Israel not worship in any way they chose? How can our worship services be more meaningful to you?

What part does attitudes and actions play in worship?

BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

Hebrews 8 and 9

A young man and woman stand before the altar of their church. Lead by questioning of their Pastor, they pledge to live together as man and wife for the rest of their lives. John and Susan add their names to a paper for the purchase of a home. They agree to make monthly payments, on a house.

What do you know about these two incidents. They have entered a covenant and made a contract.

L. C. Isbell left Marshall County Jail in Alabama, May, 1977 to get his teeth fixed on permission by the jailer. He was told to come back after the job was done. He did not return until authorities found him, April, 1979.

They tried him on escape charges, but his attorney asked the case be dismissed on grounds that an Appeals Court ruling states that a prisoner must leave custody, without permission to be counted as an escapee!

Covenants, contracts, wills are significant. Is it possible for a covenant or contract to be improved upon? Describe the meaning of a covenant.

A prominent place in history: Adam – Gen. 3:15, Noah – Gen 9:8ff, Abraham – Gen. 12:1–3, Isaac – Gen. 26:2ff, Jacob – Gen. 28:13ff, Israel – Ex. 6:7; 19:4–7. Jesus called a mediator – Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24. Describe the work of a mediator?

I. BETTER TABERNACLE – Heb. 8:1–6

V. 5 – Superiority

Shadow, only a pattern.

Following Civil War in 1875 Ira Sankey become famous for Gospel singing. On a steamboat, up Delaware River, he was requested to sing. He sang "Saviour, Like A Shepherd Lead Us". A man came up and asked "Did you serve in the Union Army?" "Yes," was his reply. "Do you remember doing picket duty on a bright moonlight night in 1862?" "Yes" was the answer. The man said "I was in the Confederate Army, when I saw you at your post and took aim with my gun from the shadows. You began to sing, I took my finger off the trigger, I listened — We are Thine; do Thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way; Keep Thy flock from sin, defend us, seek us when we go astray — I remembered home and mother, I could not shoot you." On the boat Sankey threw his arms around the man and led him to the Good Shepherd.

II. BETTER COVENANT – 8:7–13

V. 7–8 – Cause of failure – Israel forgot her spiritual mission. They wanted to be like pagan neighbors and thought in terms of military conquest rather than Spiritual Crusade.

V. 10–12 – List the several "I Wills" —

III. BETTER MINISTRY – 9:1–10

V. 1–5 – Proud of the Tabernacle

V. 7–8 – Old Covenant depended on sacrificial system – Day of Atonement – Lev. 16:33.

1. Ascension (Christ Better)

(1) Sanctuary – V. 11

In what sense was Christ a High Priest of "good things to come"?

What took the place of the Temple that was made with hands?

(2) Sacrifice – V. 12

What is the difference in the sacrificial system? V. 22. 1 Peter 1:18–19.

2. Advocate

(1) Means – V. 13–14

What did the blood of Christ do for us that the blood of animals could not? Numbers 19.

(2) Mediator – V. 15

What is a mediator? Who died for those under the first Covenant?

IV. BETTER INHERITANCE – V. 16–23

Relates to a will. It not in force as long as the person who wrote it is alive. Effective at death.
1967 – Highway contract \$3,500,000 a mile. Costly but our inheritance was expensive.

V. BETTER HOPE – V. 24–28

1. In Heaven – V. 24

What is the Holy Place of the New Covenant?

V. 25 – Describe the difference in the frequency of sacrifice under the two covenants. How often were sacrifices made under Old Covenant?

2. In Earth – V. 26

What is the relationship between Christ and sin?

3. In The Air – V. 27–28

What will be the purpose of the second appearance of Christ?

CONCLUSION:

Christ represented as Better Saviour from sin, High Priest – representing believers in Heaven, coming King.
Has the church forgotten this hope or is it emphasized in The Lord's Prayer, Lord's Supper?

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QUESTIONS OF PRIORITY

Matthew 21–22

How do most people handle a crises? What does it mean to give God priority in life? How does one resolve conflicts between two right things that need to be done at the same time? (Betty has a high desire to do the right thing with her life. She busily rushes from one thing to another. Visits hospitals, prepares food for an invalid, comforts the bereaved. She never has time to rest. She does not plan. She responds to whatever need is the current crisis. She has few choices and little direction in her life. She would like more time for study, quiet time, her husband, the children, and other Christian duties.) How can one retain a sense of priority without neglecting the urgent calls that come?

Test your answers:

1. What did you do with most of your time last week?
2. What gave you the most pleasure last week?
3. List one thing you took a stand on last week?
4. Would you agree that these things have priority in your life?
5. Are these the things you want to have as priority in your life?

John is moving up fast in his business. He is proud of success and feels he honors God in the way he works. The conflict is that he has very little time left for his family, for worship, for leisure, or service for others. How can God be given priority in this situation?

This lesson provides ways Jesus met crises by being true to priorities.

Matthew 21:1 – Formal claims to Kingship

- (a) The triumphal entry – V. 1–11
- (b) Cleansing the temple – V. 12–17
- (c) Rebukes the unfruitfulness of leaders – V. 18–22
- (d) The Kings authority challenged – V. 23–32
 - V. 23 – Questioned his authority
 - V. 25 – Answered by asking a question
 - V. 28–32 – Story of two sons (shows Pharisees' disobedience to God)
Father commanded son go to work today. What the son said?
 - V. 33 – The wicked husbandmen – warning to Israel.
(The sharecroppers killed the Son of God.)

Matthew 22:1 – Efforts to ensnare the King

- (a) The marriage feast – V. 1–14
 - Provision and invitation. V. 4. Inspection and detection. V. 11. Interrogation and conviction. V. 12
 - Expulsion. V. 13. (The host notified his guest, they were indifferent and hostile.)

I. SUBMISSION – V. 15–22 (Civil Obedience)

1. Intention – V. 15
 - What was the intent of the meeting of the Pharisees before they talked to Jesus? Luke 20:20.
 - V. 16 – What did they say to Jesus before they asked Him the trick question? (Herodians – political group, supported the Roman system. Mark 3:6.)
 - V. 17 – What is there about the question that would pose a trap? Does Government have the right of taxation?
2. Insight – V. 18
 - What were the Pharisees looking for in the answer? Note what Jesus said about their purpose.
3. Illustration – V. 19–21A
 - V. 19–20 – Visual aid or object lesson penny, Denarius worth a day's pay for a laborer or soldier.
4. Instruction – V. 21B – Romans 13:7.
5. Inhibition – V. 22. – Luke 20:26.

II. SCRIPTURES – V. 23–32 (Resurrection)

1. Riddle – V. 23–28
 - V. 23–24 – Who were the Sadducees? Acts 23:8. What did they have in common with the Pharisees in this package?
 - V. 25–28 – A stock riddle of the Sadducees in debating the Pharisees on this view of the Resurrection.
Deut. 25:5–10 regulated the whole subject.
2. Rebuke – V. 29 – List two major errors.
3. Resurrection – V. 30–32
 - The woman would remain the wife of the first man since she had no children.

V. 30 – Referring to angels, which Sadducees said did not exist. Jesus is saying sexual distinctives will not be part of glorified bodies. I Cor. 15:35–53.

V. 32 – Quotes Exodus 3:6 – Moses at Burning Bush.

V. 33 – Sadducees no further questions. Michael Faraday heard a student sneer at the Resurrection. He threw a silver goblet into a jar of acid – which completely dissolved it. Then he threw in a substance which precipitated the silver on the bottom of the jar. He took that silver to a silversmith who made it into a goblet more beautiful than before. Faraday said, if I an ordinary scientist can dissolve and remake a goblet, is it a thing incredible that God can raise the dead?

4. Rank – V. 34–40 (Commandment)

V. 36 – Ten Commandments had multiplied to 613, positive thou shalts, one for every bone in the body 248; negative thou shalt nots, one for every day in the year.

V. 37 – Deut. 6:5.

V. 39 – Lev. 19:18.

CONCLUSION:

Make a list of priorities you want in your life.

HAVE COMPASSION

Matthew 14-15

Military Medics have a series of guidelines by which they determine which patient to treat first when there are multiple injuries. They may pass up a patient who has little chance of surviving and treat one with less serious injuries. The pressure of seeing more needs than one can respond to forces difficult choices.

How does the Christian decide which of many apparent needs he will do something about?

Example: You are on the way to visit a youth who was hurt in a motorcycle accident. As you drive along you notice a woman trying to change a tire, she has two small children in the car. If you stop and help you will miss the visiting hours at the hospital where the youth was sent after the wreck. What decision should you make? Discuss the danger of being concerned about everybody's need and doing nothing for anybody.

An eccentric Arabian Sheik left his two and a half million dollar mansion, Beverly Hills, California. He left behind 30 thoroughbred dogs. They were offered free to people who would provide a good home. Over one thousand people stood in line for hours trying to adopt the dogs. Do not some show more compassion for animals than for needy people.

Jesus ordained 12 Disciples for three reasons: (1) Companionship. (2) Communications. (3) Compassion. Christian service still requires all three.

Jesus Home - 13:53-58. How did they react? How did Jesus explain their attitude? What prevented miracles there?

The Beheading of John The Baptist - 14:1-12

How did Herod react to the news of Jesus? V. 1-2. Why was John beheaded? V. 7.

Why did he honor his outrageous request? What to do with your trouble - V. 12.

Five Thousand Feed - 14:13-22

V. 19 - How was the food distributed? V. 20 - How much was left over?

Jesus Walks On The Sea - V. 23-33

Tradition exalted above Divine Law - 15:1-20.

Where the law is broken - V. 19. Daughter healed. V. 21-28. Gentile mother.

I. MOUNTAIN HEALINGS - 15:29-31

1. Galilee - V. 29

What technique did Jesus use to attract an audience?

2. Gathering - 30-31

What particular categories of people are noted in the multitude?

3. Glorifying - 31

What was the response of the multitude when they saw the miracles?

II. MULTITUDE HUNGRY - V. 32-34

1. Proposition - V. 32

What did Jesus note about the crowd that aroused concern?
Three days - teaching - healing - crowd reluctant to leave.

2. Perplexity - V. 33

Did the Disciples not care that the crowd was hungry? Why not send the crowd to a quick serve place?

3. Potential - V. 34

Why did Jesus start with a small amount instead of creating food from nothing?

Two things: First, they know what is available, but minimize it. Second, often the resources of God are not known to the individual. (God may not bless us with more until we have used what we have available to us.)

III. MIRACLE HAPPENS - V. 35-39

1. Service - 35-37A

What did Jesus do before he distributed the food? Do you offer thanks at meal time? (The son of Dr. C. A. Tindley told how the only food in the house was one potato. His father at the table thanked God. At close of the prayer, a knock was heard, a sack of groceries was just outside. Dr. Tindley wrote the songs "Stand By Me", "Nothing Between", "Leave It There".)

Notice: First, took what was available. Second, took time to give thanks. Third, distributed it to the hungry.

2. Surplus – 37B-38

What remarkable thing was done after the meal?

3. Separation – V. 39

CONCLUSION:

What Spiritual lesson was Jesus teaching in feeding the multitudes? What did the crowd learn from Jesus miracle? What was the most significant food Jesus gave the people?

How can the hungry be fed today? (Some food intended in some cases for the poor has been sold for profits by corrupt individuals. We can give through the Foreign Mission Board and 100% will get to the hungry people.)

OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 4-5

A drunken man approached Gregory Poarch, eleven years old, four feet eleven inches tall, downtown, Los Angeles. The man demanded whatever money he had. Gregory refused, the man took a swing at him, barely missing his head. Gregory was scared, dug into his pocket and handed over \$3.75. Then he followed at a distance, he spotted a police cruiser, flagged it, and the police arrested the thief. Gregory was old enough to realize help was available and he made use of it. We are told Christ is our High Priest in Heaven, we may come boldly, let's take advantage of that promise.

Priests played a role: Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists, Shintoists, Moslems, Anglican, Episcopalian, and Jews.

Prostants: Call their leaders ministers, pastors, etc.

What was the distinctive function of the High Priest in the Old Covenant? What are the qualifications of a High Priest?

Brief history of the Priesthood – The idea is that some one must stand between God and man; one who can be a mediator between them. First, Tribe of Levi were to be special ministers in the sanctuary. Num. 8:14-19. Male descendants were consecrated for special service. Second, Aaron and his first born in regular succession were to serve as High Priest. Third, they were consecrated by washing. Lev. 8:6, Ex. 29:4; special garments. Lev. 8:7-9, Ex. 28, 29. Robe – Ex. 39:22. Ephod was name of Tribes – Breastplate of twelve precious stones – Mitre or Turban, a gold plate “Holiness to Jehovah”. Ex. 28:36; 39:30. Anointing – Lev. 8:30.

I. HEAVENLY PRIEST – Heb. 4

1. Endurance – 4:1.

V. 1 – Promise of rest still abides – peace – Sabbath – Promised Land.

V. 2-3 – Israel failed – Kadesh Barnea – Wilderness 40 years.

V. 4-10 – Eternal rest remains.

V. 12-13 – The Living Word. Think of the Bible over 1100 languages over 13 million copies will be distributed in one year. For 400 years the book has never been off the printing press, year after year, best seller.

Pitcairn Island, a Bible from the ship wreck Bounty changed the people, and in 1808 the American ship Topaz visited the island found it prosperous without liquor, jail, crime, or insane asylum.

Why do we neglect this book? (A woman in Arcadia, Kansas opened her Bible in 1967 and found the deed to her house for which she had been searching since 1937.)

V. 14 – Absolute Diety of Jesus.

How are the words profession and confession different? How does Jesus' high priestly work give us incentive to good living?

2. Experience – V. 15

In what way was Jesus like the old Covenant Priest?

In what way does Jesus differ from the High Priest of the Old Covenant?

All points tempted:

(A) Tempted to seek a lawful thing in an unlawful way. Matt. 4:3-4.

(B) Tempted to make a display of His power for the honour of his own name. Matt. 4:6.

(C) Tempted to accomplish the purposes of God by adopting a God – dishonouring method. Matt. 4:8-9.

(D) Tempted to speak unadvisedly with his lips. Luke 11:53-54.

(E) Tempted to save himself by forsaking the cross. Matt. 27:40-43.

3. Expression – V. 16

What confidence are we to have because of the work of Christ? What is the result of bold praying?

II. EARTHLY PRIEST – Heb. 5:1-4

1. Concern

V. 1 – What traits characterized the High Priest? What is the nature of his work? (Appointed on men's behalf to deal with things concerning God. To be one with men, not man appointed but by God.)

2. Compassion

V. 2-3 – Why should a Christian not be judgemental toward the ignorant and erring? Who can have compassion?

V. 3 – Day of Atonement ritual.

3. Calling – V. 4

Who chose Christ to be High Priest? Help men reach God – V. 1; Feel Gently – V. 2; Appointed of God – V. 9.

III. SPECIAL PRIEST – 5:5

1. Order of Melchisedec – V. 5-6

Why is Jesus a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec? 7:1-10; Gen. 14; Psa. 110:4.

Perfect Priest: (1) Appointed of God – V. 5. (2) Consecrated by oath – 7:20-22. (3) Unchangeable – 7:23-24 (4) Sinless – 7:26. (5) Offering Final. 9:25. (6) Intercession – 7:25.

2. Originator of Salvation – V. 7-10

V. 7 – Gethsemane.

CONCLUSION:

Group touring Rome. Guide of Vatican said, “There are many Priests on duty here – 24 hours a day. In fact, you can confess your sins in 72 different languages here.” A 70 year old Deacon, Harlingen, Tex. asked “What if an American Indian should want to confess his sins, would someone understand?” “No, I do not know to whom he could confess” replied the guide. Old Deacon, “I’ll tell you what he would do – he would have to confess his sins to Jesus, just like the Bible tells him to do.”

BE PREPARED

Matthew 24–25

George is a farmer. He works hard during the busy seasons, but he has a habit of procrastinating during the off season. He lets his equipment lie idle when he needs to service and repair it. He loafs on rainy days. Results: When it is time to be busy in the field, he is in the shop with maintenance work. He often is late planting, suffers weed damage, a delayed harvest with crop losses. George works hard, but neighbors make better crops.

What was wrong with George's basic thinking pattern? What parallels do you see between George's farming and common spiritual attitudes?

How do you get ready for a special event? (Easter, births, vacations, new schools, jobs.)

How do you decide what should be done to prepare for an event? Would it make any difference if you were not sure just when the event was to take place?

Discover a special event which the followers of Christ are to take part in – Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:15–17. What is the special event?

Lesson – what we should be doing to get ready for the return of Christ.

History may soon come to an end:

490 Years from call of Abraham to the settlement in Canaan.

490 Years from settlement in Canaan to establishment of Jewish Monarchy.

490 Years from establishment of Jewish Monarchy to its downfall.

490 Years from command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to coming of The Messiah.

In every probation period of mercy they failed. The Penalty – Matthew 23:28.

MATTHEW 24:1–3 – The Last Days – Likely to be deceived.

False Christs 24:4–5. False Signs V. 6–7. Long Persecution V. 8–9. False Prophets V. 11–12.

World Shaking Events V. 27. Crowned as King V. 30. Parable of the Fig Tree V. 32–33. (Indication is look for fruit. When you see certain things take place.) Certainty of the Event. V. 35. (He says he is coming back.)

Time of His Coming V. 36–37. (Likeness of Noah and the Flood. The same kind of days – danger of routine.

Personal Preparation Needed V. 40–41.

Parables:

Homeowner – V. 42–44.

Faithful and Evil Servants – V. 45–51.

(Owner without warning returns and rewards)

MATTHEW 25:1 – Parable Of Future Events

I. ANTICIPATION – V. 1

1. Situation – V. 1.

Then – refers to time of return. What things did they have in common?

2. Supply – V. 2–4.

V. 2 – What was different description of the ten?

V. 3 – Did the foolish make any preparation at all?

V. 4 – Did the wise expect the bridegroom to be later?

3. Slumber – V. 5

Describe the word tarried.

II. CONSTERNATION – V. 6–12

1. Excitement – V. 6–9

V. 6 – Note the time – announcement – command.

V. 7 – Note checking of lamps.

V. 8 – What produced this situation.

V. 9 – Why would the wise not share their oil?

How important is oil to a nation today?

2. Exclusion – V. 10–12

V. 10 – Were the foolish willing to correct their mistake?

V. 11 – Note the heartbreak. Is it a common life experience to be able to enjoy something because previous preparation has been made?

V. 12 – What does this parable tell us about the coming of Christ?

III. IMPLICATION

1. Instruction – V. 13A

- Are there other benefits in being always prepared?
- What factors give a sense of urgency to preparation?

CONCLUSION:

- Whose responsibility was it to see that enough oil was available?
- How can we avoid the pitfall of inadequate preparation?
- Do you have a dry wick?
- What should we be doing to prepare for his return.
- List some things we need to do now!

GOD REAFFIRMS HIS PROMISE

Exodus 5-6

Promises may be described by certain words – fill in a word for each letter.

P

R

O

M

I

S

E

How can we be assured that God will keep his promises to people today? How are we today to claim God's promises to us?

A King who forgot – The King of France – Louis XVI at the time of the revolution. He never expected to be King, spent his time hunting. He had two older brothers. His father and two brothers died unexpectedly, so Louis inherited the Throne. Not his nature to be good King – occupied his time with hunting and social life – appointed officials governed.

Times were changing. American Colonies defeated the British. Louis chose to defend rights of nobility, the upper class. Thousands of common people were out of work, taxes and food prices were increasing. People wanted relief, he and his family were made prisoners. He refused to co-operate with a popular assembly in giving the people a greater participation in government. August, 1792, He moved to a fortress in Paris, the King was tried and condemned to death on January 21, 1793, on a scaffold in center of Paris he was executed. During those years, Louis had many opportunities to change the direction of French history – tragedy he forgot his duty.

Passage today, King of Egypt forgot what the Hebrew Joseph had done to save his nation. Christians are not to forget – I Cor. 6:20; 7:23.

Memory of Joseph faded with coming of new King. He was alarmed at growth of Israelites and afraid they might side with enemies in war. Ex. 1:7-14.

Great drama filled with opposition – people in bondage – Pharaoh with power.

Moses: "He's got the whole world in his hand!" Abram left Ur. Jacob was brought to Canaan. Joseph was sold to Egypt. 70 members of Jacob's family move to Egypt. Multiplying at alarming rate, new ruler had plans to control this population explosion. (Slaves – ordered baby boys drowned.) Birth of Moses, Pharaoh's daughter found him, adopted him. He defended a fellow Hebrew by slaying an Egyptian – fled to Midian – joined the family of a Priest.

Blazing Bush – Ex. 3:1-9 (What was God's plan?)

Moses Mission – Ex. 3:10-22.

V. 11 – Assessed inadequate nobody.

V. 12 – Solid proof.

V. 13-14 – Ask God's name.

V. 18 – Request a three days journey from Pharaoh. God equips his servant. Ex. 4:1-17. (God's provisions.)

V. 1-9 – Three miraculous signs.

V. 11-12 – Question not ability but availability.

V. 13-17 – Armed with faith and shepherd's staff.

Return to Egypt – 4:18-31

Heavy handed reaction – 5:1-21. Pharaoh's reaction.

V. 7 – Added responsibility.

V. 9 – Added work keep under control.

I. COMPLAINT – 5:22

1. Inquiries – V. 22

Was Moses justified in blaming God for not delivering the Israelites from bondage immediately?

Question: Why had Lord treated them so badly? Why send me?

2. Injustices – V. 23

Why was Moses discouraged about his part in aiding the Israelites? Why does God let the wicked go on in evil deeds?

Why must Moses suffer reproach, he is trying to help them?

II. COVENANT – 6:1-9

1. Reassurance – V. 1

How did God reassure Moses regarding his mission to Egypt?

2. Remembrance – V. 2-5

By what name was God to be known to His people? Name indicates God is always living, always present, no beginning and no end. God Almighty, faithful God, redemptive God.

V. 4 – Strangers in the land, promise as permanent home.

V. 5 – In what way had God established a Covenant with Israel? Had God neglected the Covenant, persecution had begun before birth of Moses, who is now eighty. 7:7 – What about us – troubles never seem to end.

3. Redemption – 6-8

What provision of the Covenant was yet to be fulfilled? What bearing does the Covenant have on Israel today?

4. Report – V. 9

Why wouldn't they listen to Moses when he gave them God's message? People listened at first now he is misunderstood. When I am misunderstood, I usually ---- some of the things that hurt me are --- God showed he loved and cared for me by ----.

III. CHARGE – V. 10-13

1. First Charge – V. 13A

2. Second Charge – V. 13B

Why was Moses to charge Israel and Pharaoh when neither accepted what he said?

What would you have done, God had called you to a job, and everybody was against you?

CONCLUSION:

Is it hard to keep the loyalty of people? Why do they forget when richly blessed? How can we keep our faith growing? Moses was patient even when people complained about inconvenience.

GOD'S COVENANT AND JOSHUA

Josh. 24

Joshua leads in a New Dedication – most of life revolves around getting ready. What takes place when you take a trip or vacation? Parents have been getting children ready for school. Some are all involved in new plans, new activities, new dedication, and new decisions.

Joshua not like the man who remarked at the news of a telephone cable from England to South Africa. "Now that we can speak, have we anything to say to them." Israel had followed Moses, now they are in the land with new tasks and goals.

Picture a group studying in school – a difficult course, with a large volume of work reading and papers to write. One student asserts "It is hard but I am determined to make it. I will not give up." How does an uncompromising commitment help at all times of crises?

What had God done for Israel? Recall some of the experiences in Egypt, slavery, and travels in the wilderness. Why did Israel long for Egypt? Were there no opportunities out in the desert. Numbers 14:3-4.

1. Was it because they were too frightened to go forward?
2. Did they long for Egypt because they had forgotten what Egypt was like?
3. Did they long for Egypt because they did not have commitment to go forward?

Exodus 19:4-6. What does this say about God's redeeming acts? Deut. 34:1-7. List some interesting things about the leader Moses at the time of his death.

Numbers 27:15-17 – Moses wants a leader to take his place. Numbers 27:18 – Joshua is called and filled with Spirit.

- V. 19 – Given a charge before the Priest.
- V. 20 – Honored by Moses and the people.
- V. 21 – Successful in his work.

Character of the New Leader (Joshua)

- Joshua 1:1-2 – Understanding the purpose of God.
- V. 3 – Faith in the promise of God. How was the land to be claimed?
- V. 5 – Explain the meaning of the presence of God. Dan. 3:17.
- V. 6-7 – Courage is found in the name of God.
 - Faithfulness to the leading of God.
- V. 8 – Delight in the word of God.
- V. 9 – Obedience to the will of God.

Crossing Jordan

- Jos. 3:5 – What preparation did they make
- V. 7 – Encouragement to Joshua
- V. 8 – Strange halt
- V. 13 – Assuring promise
- V. 17 – The crossing
- 4:5-7 – A memorial raised – what is the meaning of a memorial?

Camping at Gilgal 4:19

- 5:9 – Place of freedom. (Gilgal – rolling away.)
- V. 11-12 – Place of new food.

Conquering Jericho – 6:1, 20

Consecration and Service

- Jos. 23:1, 3 – How had deliverance come?
- V. 6, 11, 14 – How are they to keep this possession of land?
- 24:1 – Blessings reviewed. V. 7 – Separation. V. 8 – Victory. V. 10 – Protection, V. 13 – Possession.

I. REQUEST 24:14-18

1. Choice – V. 14-15

- What did Joshua call on the people to do?
- What did he say would happen if they continued to honor false Gods? Exo. 20:3-5.

2. Confusion – V. 16-18

- How did the people respond to Joshua's call?
- On what past experience did the people base their choice?

II. REBUKE – V. 19–20

1. Condition – V. 19

How did Joshua emphasize the significance of the people's decision?
In what sense can it be said that God is a jealous God?

2. Consequence – V. 20

Even with this warning, what was the choice of the people?

III. REACTION – V. 21–25

1. Testimony – V. 21–22

Who witnessed the agreement the people made with the Lord?

2. Test – V. 23–24

What specific instructions did Joshua give to ratify the Covenant?

3. Time-Capsule – V. 25 (Covenant)

V. 26 – Buried the record under an oak, today we put objects in one corner stone of a new building.

V. 31

CONCLUSION:

Why was it necessary to get the Gods discarded rather than simply ignored?

List some things God expected of His people in the new land.

PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM

Matt. 8-10

Matthew is the New Exodus. God made a new start, created a new people. Moses was called out of Egypt, Jesus made his flight into Egypt.

1-2 - Infancy Narrative. 3-7 - Conduct of the church.

8-10 - Commission of the church. 11-13:53 - Christ of the church.

13:53-19:1 - Community of the church. 19:1-26:1 - Consummation of the church.

26-28 - Passion Narrative.

Matthew gives instruction for Christians, with a view to equipping them in their turn for spoken evangelism.

What do you think are the chief occasions of the collapse of character today? Could it be illustrated by 7:27 (rains, floods, and winds)?

THE KING EXERCISING AUTHORITY AND POWER

1. Over Sickness 8:1-4

A leper could not attend public worship and had to cry unclean when people approached.

V. 5-13 - Healed Centurion's servant, suffered a stroke.

V. 14-15 - Healed Peter's mother-in-law, raging fever.

V. 16-17 - Cast out Devils.

2. Over Personal Affairs of Men - V. 18-22

3. Over Elements of Nature - V. 23-27

Calmed the sea.

4. Over Demon World - V. 28-34

Why did they ask Jesus to leave their country?

5. Over Forgiveness of Sin - V. 9:1-8

6. Over Social Customs - V. 10-13

7. Over Religious Observances - V. 14-17

8. Over Death - V. 18-26

Raised the ruler's daughter.

9. Over Blindness - V. 27-31

10. Over Disease - V. 32-33

I. COMPASSION - 9:35

1. Efforts - V. 35

What was the pattern of Jesus' work in the cities?

What is one most important thing lost in the use of radio, T. V., and electronic gadgetry?

(Is there any adequate substitute for personal touch?)

2. Emotion - V. 36

What particular fact is noted as arousing the Lord's compassion?

What takes place when a person is moved with compassion?

3. Encouragement - V. 37-38

What is the meaning of the fact that the harvest is plentiful?

In the illustration of the harvest, what kind of problem did exist?

Does the same situation still prevail today?

What should Christians do to help with that problem?

4. Empowerment - 10:1

To go in the name of Christ.

II. COMMISSION - 10:5

1. People - V. 5-6

Why did he not want them to go to Gentiles? The Disciples need to appreciate closed doors as well as open ones. (Acts 16:6-10). Later they were to go to all people in the world.

2. Preaching - V. 7

How were they to take care of his business?

3. Powers - V. 8

4. Provisions - V. 9-10

How were the Disciples to be supported in their work?

III. CONTRAST – V. 11–15

1. Selection – V. 11

Abide with the worthy person who opens his home.

2. Salutation – V. 12–13A

Nothing more distasteful than a haughty or impolite Christian. You can kill your witness by unChristian action or attitude. You have heard “actions speak louder than words.”

3. Separation – V. 13B–15

Symbolic – Shake the dust off your feet. Make the wisest use of your time in Kingdom witnessing.
Sodom – Gen. 19:24–25 – Destroyed by fire. The record books will be opened and the wicked deed judged.

CONCLUSION:

Two factors make the harvest plentiful –

(1) There is much to do.

(2) There are not enough people to do what needs to be done.

What solution can you offer for this harvest?