

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 onto 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. 17

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? (990 - 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 Pelen 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 Saudi 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 - (Own 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. HIRING - 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; Judgment, V. 15.

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

How do most people handle a crisis? 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 King's 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 passage?
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. 1 Cor. 15:29-52.

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

V. 33 - Sadducees no further questions. Michael Faraday heard a student cheer 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 shalt, one for every bone in the body 248; negative thou shalt not, 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.

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. Favours - 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 ---

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 Sadducees 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.

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. Sign 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". 1 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. Deignation - 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 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. Effects - 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 un-Christian 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?

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. 1?

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?

David is good hearted, very likable, 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 - Reverence 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?

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) Warieness 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?

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. Psa. 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 work 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 . . ."

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 see 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? Eze. 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.

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 - tragically 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 - 1 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. Injustice - 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.

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 will 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 cult 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 and 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 - Goats 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. STUBBORNNESS - 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 affect their children's decisions.

CONCLUSION:

How do we know God will not turn on Christians today? (Leaders are found drunk, spending time with hooligans, taking bribes, fear 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.)

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 Bithynia, 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 Demonic 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, nobeliat in the field of chemistry says a capaliba 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." \$0 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 Counsel guide, uphold you." They shared in dark prison.

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.

Apollo - 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 - Testmaker - 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 (Apollo)

Consider the strength of Apollo:

 - 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 Apollo in his ministry of declaring truth to others? Whom did God use to inform Apollo? 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 Apollo? 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 Apollo a letter to take to Achaia?
2. Encouragement - V. 27-28

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

III. EXAMPLES - 1 Cor. 3:5-9

1. Responsibilities

Apollo's ministry at Corinth successful. 1 Cor. 1:10 - Divided Church. V. 11-12 - Contentions based on personalities and parties. Peter group, Paul group, Apollo group, Christ group. V. 13-17 - Paul's answer, we belong to Christ. 1 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 Apollo 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.

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

1 Corinthians 12-13

List the gifts given to the church to enable it to function effectively in the world.

A minister used this subject at a funeral - "Is Love Lost", with the death of this person is love lost? What is your answer? (The four year old grandson gave his answer audibly, no!)

When we lack love what results? (Paul had three difficulties to solve.)

1 Cor. 11:3-6 - Women and freedom a problem.

1 Cor. 11:18-29 - Lord's Supper not characterized by love (Old preacher in the highlands of Scotland, noticed an old woman refusing to take the cup, said - "Take it woman, this is for sinners, it's for you.")

1 Cor. 12:1 - Superiority of tongues - gifts.

Can you list any ways in which love is misunderstood, or missed in strange ways today? (Parents - children; husband-wife, friends.)

What motivates my religion? Tell your own experience how the power of love binds a family together in the face of a crisis. What is the greatest thing in the world?

Years ago Encyclopaedia Britannica gave four lines to word "Atom" and five pages to love. The latest edition - eight pages to "Atom" and no separate entry on love.

Paul wrote two long letters, perhaps three. 1 Cor. 5:9. Solving problems in the church at Corinth.

I. CONTRIBUTIONS - 1 Cor. 12:27

1. Body Members - V. 27

What are members in particular in the body of Christ? Analogy of the body - Human Body and different parts. V. 14-16.

2. Blessed People - V. 28-30

V. 28 - What types of services are mentioned? V. 29-30 - Do all have the same gifts? Do you agree every Christian can be helpful in some way.

3. Best Choice - V. 31.

Gifts had divided - now what is his plea? (Way meant path, you have previously walked on the wrong road - more excellent road.)

II. CHARITY - 1 Cor. 13:1

1. Worthless Action - V. 1-3

V. 1 - Effects of the lack of love. Booming brass gong hung from limbs of trees before heathen Temples. Cymbal used in the service. Tongues no better than meaningless noises.

V. 2-3 - Are the gifts of tongues in operation today? What way of life is superior to that in which spiritual gifts operate? Note the special abilities mentioned in V. 2.

What is meant by it profiteth me nothing? Reaction: A Preacher said: "How much we care about God is more important than how much we know about God."

2. Wonderful Qualities - V. 4-5

Name 15 features of Christian love. Review their meaning. Are these qualities attainable? Read the words of the hymn - "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" (Written by a minister, rural church, called to the city, love prevented him leaving.)

III. COMPLETENESS

1. Inadequacies

V. 8A-10 - Why will their function change? People do not walk on water today, cure a blind eye, raise the dead.

2. Insights - V. 11-12

When will partial knowledge find completion? Mirror: How does Paul use this to illustrate? How much have I grown, how do I need to change, what can a mirror tell me?

3. Impression - V. 13

Is love greater than faith and hope?

Three Pyramids - 1 Cor. 13:13 - 1 Tim. 1:5 - 2 Peter 1:5-7

Put word love at top. And word faith at bottom.

CONCLUSION:

What is our aim - 1 Cor. 14:1? What did Jesus say was greatest Commandment - Luke 10:27?

Name ways to show love. Clock: Petalium swings true in January as June, so with love.

How do you rate on a love test?
Give each pupil a copy of the chart
below. Instruct them to rate them-
selves on a scale of 1 to 5 on each
characteristic, 5 being the best and 1
the worst.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. I love, even when the ob-
ject is not ideal or even
pleasant. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. I respond to less-than-
perfect objects of love with
acceptance, not nagging. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. I am as happy with an-
other's good fortune as I am
with my own. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. I prefer to praise others
more than to call
attention to myself. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. I behave thoughtfully
toward others. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. I am content to give up
my rights for the welfare of
others. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. I am not irritable
with others. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. I keep no record of
wrongs. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 9. I find joy in what is
true. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. I do not fly off the
handle easily. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. I am forgiving. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 12. I prefer to think the
best of others until proved
wrong. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 13. I am steadfast in my
Christian hope. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 14. I stand firm regard-
less of what happens. | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Allow time enough for everyone to
finish the test. Then take a few
minutes to discuss the reactions to
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GOD DESIRES JUSTICE

Deut. 16, 17, 24

When a group of children play with a toy and one takes it away. How does the offended child seek justice? List some areas where injustice appears today.

What do you know about our courts? What kind do we have? Have you served on jury, what impressions of justice did you receive?

Suppose: 17 year old youth is surprised by a policeman while robbing a store. He comes to trial. Some say his whole life is ahead - let him off. What of the policeman's wife and child? How could you do a redemptive thing in the situation?

Suppose: Bob Smith gets angry with a neighbor and shoots him, killing him. The Attorney says it was passionate anger and should be acquitted. The District Attorney said it was deliberate murder and should be held accountable. The Jury gave him 7 years. Provoked a public outcry, human life is now cheap.

How could the cause of justice be best served by this jury? Is it possible that strict justice or a merciful approach is a better answer to the situation.

The Lesson: Moses initiated a discussion of the justice of God by pointing out the responsibility of the appointed leaders. Deal with the role of:

- Judges - Deut. 16:18-20
- Legal Procedure - Deut. 16:21-17:1
- The Appellate Court - Deut. 17:8-13
- The Kings - 17:14-20
- The Priest - 18:1-8
- The Prophets - 18:9-22

(Despite this list of officials responsible for justice, the ultimate burden fell upon the people.)

I. JUSTICE - Deut. 16:18

1. Provision - V. 18

What is the primary requirement of a Judge? Why the gate a good place to hold court? Justice was available to every person. The hard cases went to _____ before settlement of Canaan. Deut. 1:9-17.

2. Prevention - V. 19

What are the special temptations of Judges? Why should a judge not accept gifts from those appearing before him? What are some things that could pervert justice?

3. Promise - V. 20

What is the harm to justice in being too lenient on some?
Life of Israel tied to the land - 2 Kings 20:17-18.
V. 21 - 17:7 - Legal procedures for protecting worship.
17:8-13 - Appellate Court for provisions of satisfactory judgment. (Hard or unusual cases not reach a decision - go to higher court.)
17:14-20 - Role of King in Justice as representatives of God.

II. COMPASSION - Deut. 24:1

1. Practical

- V. 1-4 - Divorced - dignity to women no easily passed from one man to another.
- V. 5 - Newly married.
- V. 6 - Responsible credit.
- V. 7 - Kidnapping.
- V. 8-9 - Quantities.

2. Pledge - V. 10-13

Why could a creditor not go into the debtor's house for a repossession? What ways can lenders and borrowers take advantage of another person?

3. Payment - V. 14-15

How were the poor protected against unduly severe repossessions? When were they to be paid?
Did the laws about oppression deal only with other Israelites?
V. 16 - Individual responsibility.

III. GENEROSITY - Deut. 24:17-19

1. Preference

What special protection were leaders to give to widows? Rep. Claude Pepper, Fla., said "Old people being duped for one billion dollars a year by unscrupulous insurance agents selling worthless policies to the elderly."

2. Passover - V. 18 Remember Grace of God.

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to the elderly."

2. Passover - V. 18 Remember Grace of God.

3. Plenty - V. 19

What three groups were included - How are these groups treated today?
What can our church do to improve the lot of these groups.

CONCLUSION:

List some ways we can deal with injustices today. On whom does the greater responsibility of justice lie -
officials or people.
Define your answer.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Acts 8

Begin unit of lessons: Many barriers that were overcome by early Christians. But what about today, what barriers must be overcome in order to spread the Gospel?

A CONCERNED Disciple - 6:8-11

- V. 8 - Stephen, to do much more than serve tables.
- V. 10 - Not Stephen's but wisdom furnished by Holy Spirit.
- V. 11 - No truth to answer with, they resort to lies.

A CONVICTING Message - 7-53

- V. 2 - Defends before Court - He showed God's purpose in history.
- V. 51 - Strong words, "stiff-necked" - Hearts - East. Angered the Sanhedrin in racial shackles. Today a preacher speaks out opposing such things as sin - may pay with his life or loss of his job.
- V. 52-53 - Which of the Prophets have not your fathers persecuted? From being accused he became the accuser. Matt. 23:29-37.

A CONDEMNED Messenger - V. 54-60

- V. 54 - Reacted like wild animals.
- V. 55-56 - Glimpse of Glory of Heaven.
- V. 57-58 - Reaction - Matt. 26:65, Lev. 24:14-16.
- V. 59-60 - Luke mentioned Saul - wide persecution.

A SCATTERED Church - 8:1

- V. 1 - Great Persecution - Scattering Christians like seed abroad.
- V. 3 - How did Saul go about his task?
- V. 5 - Philip - Name means horse lover, fled Jerusalem. Agent of outreach. Samaritans erected barriers, worship center - Mt. Gerizim.
- V. 8 - City stirred to joy. Simon the sorcerer.
- V. 14 - Peter and John became involved in the outreach ministry of Philip. Messengers of the Jerusalem Church.
- V. 18-19 - Simon's attempt to purchase spiritual power. Practice of selling and buying clerical positions.
- V. 23 - Sharp Rebuke.

I. BREAK-THROUGH 8:25

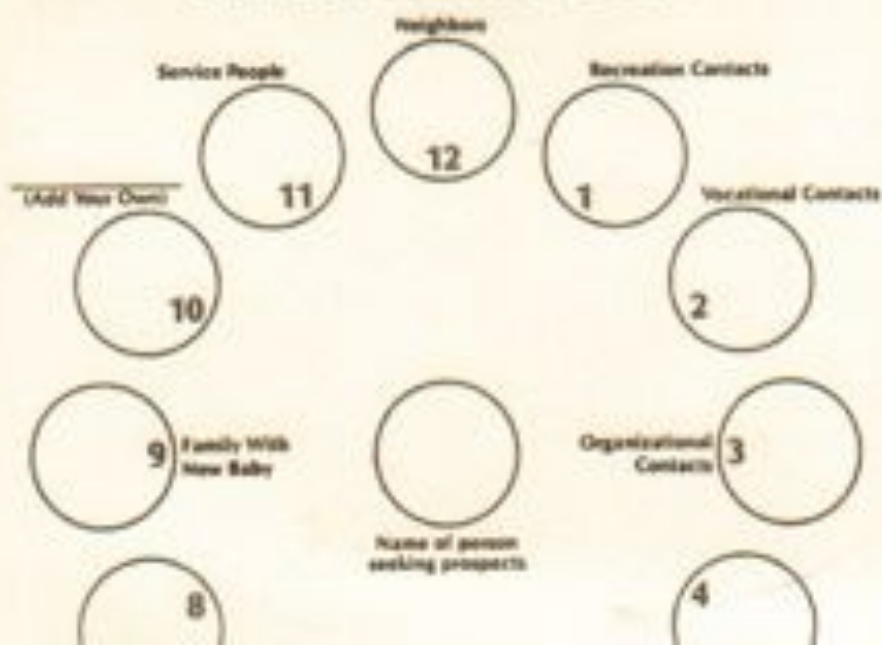
What is the best way to deal with personal feelings of racial prejudice? Acts 1:8

II. BEWILDERMENT

1. Orders - V. 26

What should be our attitude toward the number of people to whom we witness?
 Have you had any appointments this week? Divine appointment by angel.
 Where can we find people.

PROSPECT LOCATION CLOCK



- A CONDEMNED Messenger - V. 54-60
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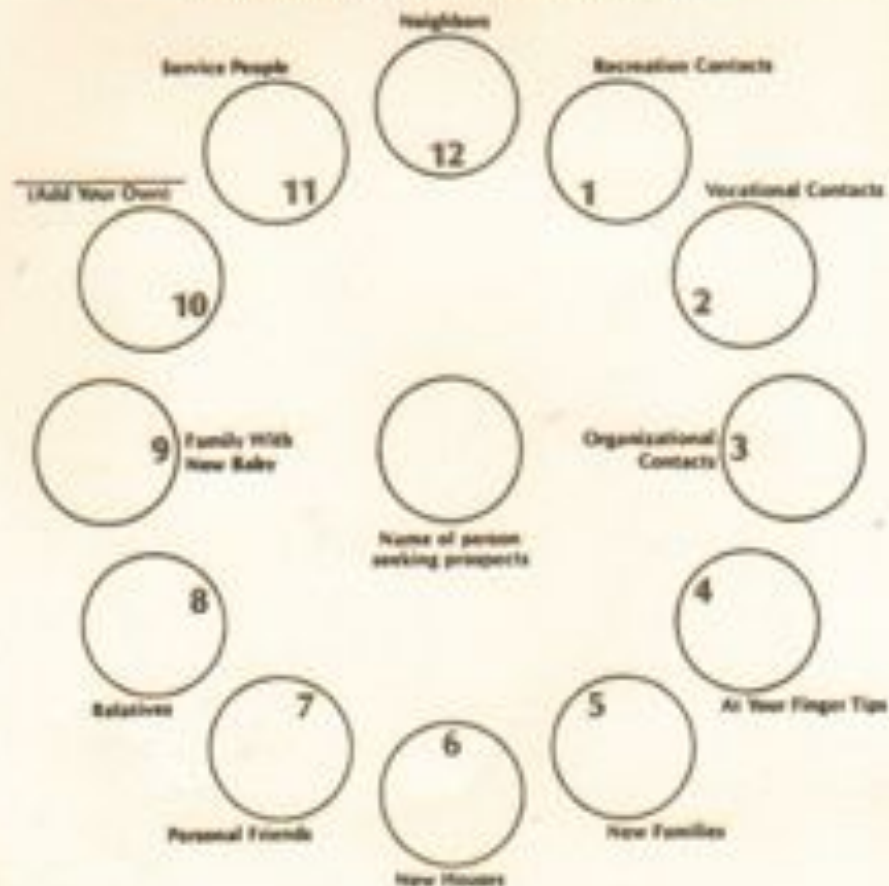
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 Where can we find people.

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2. Official - V. 27-28

What is attitude of many Christians toward upper-class people?

Males who had been emasculated often rose to high and trusted positions. Gen. 39:1; Jer. 38:1; Lev. 22:24; Deut. 31:1; Isa. 56:1-5.

Favorite Book - Do you have a favorite?

3. Overture - V. 29-31

When is the right time to make contact with a prospective convert?

What reason did the Spirit direct Philip?

V. 30 - What was the focus of the question?

Is it presumptuous for us to offer to help a person understand the Bible?

V. 31 - What should we talk about as we open a conversation with a Prospect?

4. Opportunity - V. 32-34

Isaiah 53:7-8

V. 34 - Why is the question important and timely?

III. BAPTISM

1. Preaching - V. 35

What is the best materials to use in witnessing about Christ to others?

2. Proposal - V. 36

Is it necessary to be baptized in order to become a Christian?

3. Pre-Requisite - V. 37

He could find nothing to restrain, forbid, prohibit baptism.

4. Procedure - V. 38

What may we learn about baptism from this event?

Which mode of baptism is correct - sprinkling - pouring, or immersion?

When should a convert be baptized.

CONCLUSION:

Ray Weece, Campus Minister, University Missouri - determined to talk with one person every day about Jesus. (Air Line, shop-keepers, mechanics, janitors, restaurant folks, hitch-hikers many times stop the car by rock quarry or church baptistry - go down into the water and go on their way rejoicing - V. 39)

If God was going to use an angel to help, why didn't He just send the angel instead of Philip?

What does this tell us about how He does His work?

THEY CRUCIFIED HIM

Matthew 27

Darkest of all times – Lord of Glory was crucified. How could a thing like this happen?

Give your theory of John Warnock Hinckley Jr. and his motive in shooting President Reagan, James Brady, plus a policeman and Secret Service Agent? Nine Presidents have faced attackers with guns. Reagan is 39th President. Four – Lincoln, 1865; Garfield, 1881; McKinley, 1901; Kennedy, 1963 – were killed by assassin bullets. Theodore Roosevelt was shot in 1912 – Harry Truman was shot in 1950 – F. D. Roosevelt was shot at 1933 – Andrew Jackson was shot at by two pistols 1835 – Ford was shot at 1975. Does this show a sickness in America, how long has it existed, do other nations suffer from the same problem, what can we do about it, why is a President in greatest danger?

The Last Days of Jesus (Number the events)

- Gethsemane experienced
- Institution of the Lord's Supper
- Jesus' arrest
- Scourging and mockery
- Hearing before Caiaphas
- Judas' identification as betrayer
- Preparation for Passover
- Peter's denial
- Trial before Pilate
- Judas' regret

The King betrayed and arrested – 26-47.

1. Betrayed by a kiss – V. 47-50
2. Refuses to sanction violence – V. 51-54
3. Surrenders to the mob – V. 55-56

The King tried and crucified

1. Before the Jewish Sanhedrin – V. 57-68
2. Denied by Peter – V. 69-75

Truth about sin – First, once a thing is done nothing can alter it or bring it back.

Second, it is a strange thing a man can come to hate the very thing he has gained by sin.

The prize he won turns to disgust, and revolt. He desires to fling it from him as Judas did.

3. The Betrayer commits Suicide – 27:1-11

Why was he unhappy with his bargain?

4. Before Pilate The Roman – V. 11-26

V. 11 – Why did Pilate want to know his claims?

V. 17 – What was Pilate's scheme?

V. 22 – What is the question Pilate had to deal with a three-fold charge – Luke 23:2.

First, being a revolutionary.

Second, with inciting the people not to pay their taxes and . . .

Third, with claiming to be a king.

(The Roman standards were not flags, they were poles with the Roman eagle, or the reigning emperor, on the top of them.)

5. Crucified, Dead, and Buried – V. 27-60

V. 27-32 – List some of the indignities Jesus suffered.

I. REGARDED – V. 33

1. Golgotha – V. 33

Explain the emotional pressures on Christ at His Crucifixion. Who was involved in this sad spectacle at Golgotha?

2. Gall – V. 34

Psalms 69:21.

3. Garments – V. 35

Psalms 22:18 – How did they share the victim's clothes?

4. Guards – V. 36-38

What is the significance of His being crucified between two thieves? Why were the soldiers stationed at the cross?

What did the board over the cross indicate?

II. REVILED – V. 39-44

1. Observers – V. 39-40

Why would people pass by and ridicule a dying man?

V. 40 – What irony is in the taunt that – "He trusted in God; let him deliver him?"

2. Opponents – V. 41-43

What were they asking him to demonstrate?

3. Offenders – V. 44

This third group exercised an appeal.

III. RELEASED – V. 45-50

1. Darkness – V. 45

Did God let a man demand? How could the darkness happen? Ex. 10:21-23

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III. RELEASED - V. 45-50

1. Darkness - V. 45

Did God act as men demanded? How could the darkness happen? Ex. 10:22-23.

2. Departure - V. 46

V. 46 - Why did he feel forsaken? Deut. 31:23; 2 Cor. 5:21; Psa. 22:1.

V. 47 - Some felt he was calling on Elijah.

V. 48 - Sour wine helped pass the time - John 19:29-30

V. 49 - Waiting for Elijah to rescue.

3. Death - V. 50

What is the impact of that verse.

V. 51-55 - Find three great revelations. First, temple veil was rent. Second, tombs were opened. Third, adoration of the Centurion first fruits.

CONCLUSION:

Number events - 4 - 3 - 5 - 10 - 6 - 2 - 1 - 7 - 9 - 8.

How many groups took part in the crucifixion. What did the crucifixion accomplish?

GOD'S COVENANT AND PETER

Acts 2-3

The Holy Spirit is the Power of God that calls people into the New Covenant, and this relationship is available through repentance.

Think about some things you may have done or wanted to do this past week that would show power in the family, job, etc. Think of some things that someone else may have done to get power.

What place did the desire for power play in the life of Adam and Eve?

What place does economic power have in our lives?

Can we classify power as either good or bad?

Trace the record of God's power through the Old Testament, give events --. Trace His Power through events of the New Testament.

1976 a family visiting New York City. At night fall they stood on the observation Deck of the Empire State Building. Looking at lights over the giant city. The electric power went off. Minutes passed into hours, 102 floors above the street level and no elevator. After a night, guides led the tourists down long flights of steps to ground level -- all because of lack of electric power. Power is important.

What brought real power to the New Testament Church at Pentecost? What brings real power to the church today?

Can you suggest phrases or sentences that are descriptive of the Holy Spirit?

I. REVIEW - 2:1-13

What really happened at Pentecost.

Who was in Jerusalem for Pentecost and why was the crowd large?

(Pentecost was the second of three great festivals -- (1) The Passover; (2) Pentecost occurred 50 days after the Passover -- a festival of gratitude for the agricultural harvest of grain; (3) Feast of Tabernacles.) Why were so many people from other countries in Jerusalem?

What miracle happened at Pentecost regarding the universality of the Gospel? V. 8.

V. 4 -- They began to speak in "other tongues", not "unknown tongues". People from other countries heard with understanding -- V. 6. No interpreter was necessary -- V. 6, 8, 11. The point of what happened was the universality of the Gospel, a miracle occurred to demonstrate the message of the New Covenant.

Fruit of the Spirit is found in Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 5:9.

Luke said the Holy Spirit had been at work -- Acts 7:51; 28:25.

II. REFERENCE - Acts 2:14-17

1. Exhortation - V. 14

What was the occasion when Peter preached this sermon? What particular thing had happened to attract their attention? Why was it necessary for him to deliver this sermon?

2. Explanation - V. 15-17

What assumption was made by the crowd about the events? How did he answer the charge of drunkenness? (Romans measured a day 6 A.M. to 6 P.M. Jewish day went from Sunset to Sunset. The time in question was 9 A.M.)

What alternate explanation did Peter give? V. 16. Joel 2:28-32 -- Peter repeated Joel's prophecy to the ending of the old age and beginning of the new age which was now occurring because of what God had done in Jesus Christ. Then he concludes with events scheduled for Christ's second coming -- "Great and notable day of the Lord." Acts 2:20.

Psalms 16:8-11 quoted. V. 22 -- Divine approval of Jesus. V. 23 -- Guilt of rejecting Christ.

V. 24 -- Power of resurrection. V. 33-36 -- Certainty of exaltation. V. 37 -- Deep conviction.

V. 38-40 -- Plain directions. V. 41 -- Joyful reception. V. 42 -- Steady progression.

III. REPENTANCE - Acts 3:18-21

1. Completion - 3:1-18

V. 2-3 -- Picture of need. V. 4-5 -- Work of faith. V. 7-9 -- Miracle of grace. V. 11-12 -- Awakening of wonder. V. 28 -- What particular part of the life of Christ was specified as the fulfillment of Prophecy?

2. Conversion - V. 19

What did he call on the people to do? What did Peter promise if the requirements were met?

What is significant about the command to repent? V. 21 -- The Ascension of Jesus to the Father is not the end of his dealings with people on this earth. They were to live with the conviction of ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ.

IV. REVELATION - Acts 3:22-26

1. Predictions - V. 22-23

Quote from Deuteronomy 18:15-19. Lev. 23:29 -- Peter reaches back in history to Moses and says he spoke of Christ, and pointed to the Messiah. He presses them to accept The Messiah. V. 24 -- Great man Samuel had foretold these days.

1. Birthdays. V. 25-26

I. REVIEW - 2:1-13

What really happened at Pentecost.

Who was in Jerusalem for Pentecost and why was the crowd large?

(Pentecost was the second of three great festivals -- (1) The Passover; (2) Pentecost occurred 50 days after the Passover -- a festival of gratitude for the agricultural harvest of grain; (3) Feast of Tabernacles.) Why were so many people from other countries in Jerusalem?

What miracle happened at Pentecost regarding the universality of the Gospel? V. 8.

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2. Privileges - V. 25-26

Gen. 12:3; 22:18 - Children of the Covenant. Peter goes back to the original given to Abraham.

CONCLUSION:

Believers are locked in a Covenant with God. A human parent is often disappointed with the behavior of his child, Christians disappoint God, yet his love continues. The Holy Spirit is God's Gift - do you know the primary work of the Spirit. Do you evidence of the Spirit at work in your life?