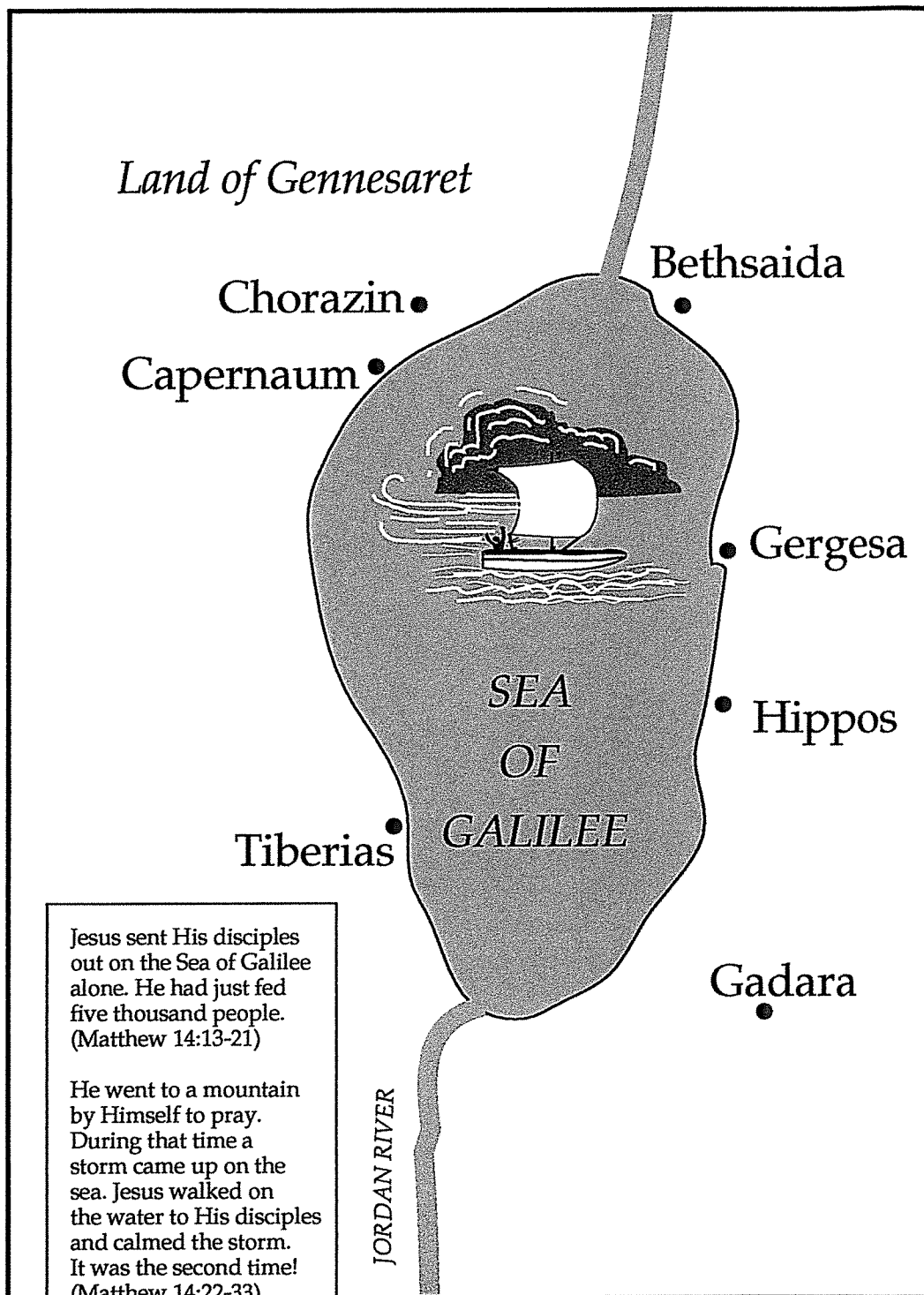


Apply Within for Kids- Matthew Chapter 14



Jesus sent His disciples out on the Sea of Galilee alone. He had just fed five thousand people. (Matthew 14:13-21)

He went to a mountain by Himself to pray. During that time a storm came up on the sea. Jesus walked on the water to His disciples and calmed the storm. It was the second time! (Matthew 14:22-33)

They then headed for the land of Gennesaret where He healed many people of sicknesses. (Matthew 14:34-36)



Herod the tetrarch's father killed many babies under two years old in hope of killing the newborn King, Jesus. (See Matthew 2:16, which is a fulfillment of Jeremiah 31:15.)

John the Baptist was hated because he did not approve of the adulterous lifestyle of Herod the tetrarch and Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother! Herod the tetrarch was a true politician! He was grieved by his oath, but he cared more about the opinions of those around him than he did about doing the right thing!

In Matthew 11, John had been put into prison and his disciples came and told Jesus. John had just been beheaded, so John's disciples went and told Jesus.



Where do you go when there is trouble? Go tell Jesus!

Herod's Birthday Celebration; John The Baptist Is Beheaded.

"At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus and said to his servants, 'This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.' For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison (Matthew 11) for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. Because John had said to him, 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, 'Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter.' And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. Then his (John's) disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus." - Matthew 14:1-12

"When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick." - Matthew 14:13-14

Jesus knew that it was not yet His time to be crucified, so He departed from there. Jesus was grieved about John and longed to be by Himself. But multitudes followed Him and needed Him. We must follow His example. Though we are tired or grieved sometimes, we must deny ourselves of what *we* desire, having compassion on others around us who are in need.

Herod's Birthday Celebration; John The Baptist Is Beheaded Matthew 14:1-14

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. prompted-to urge on, to instigate
2. tetrarch-became a common title among the Romans for those who governed any part of a province or kingdom and subject only to the Roman Emperor

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 14:1-5. Who was Herodias?

b. After reading Matthew 14:1-5, why do you think Herod locked John the Baptist up in prison for Herodias' sake? (Lev. 20:21a; Matt. 14:4; John 3:20)

c. After reading Leviticus 20:21a and John 3:20, what light was John exposing Herod and Herodias to? (Psalm 119:105)
2. a. Read Matthew 14:6-12. How did Herod trap himself in his own words?

b. What does the Word of God say about oaths? (Ecc. 5:2-5; Matt. 5:33-37)
3. a. How did Herod choose to please man (in this case, his brother's wife Herodias) instead of God?

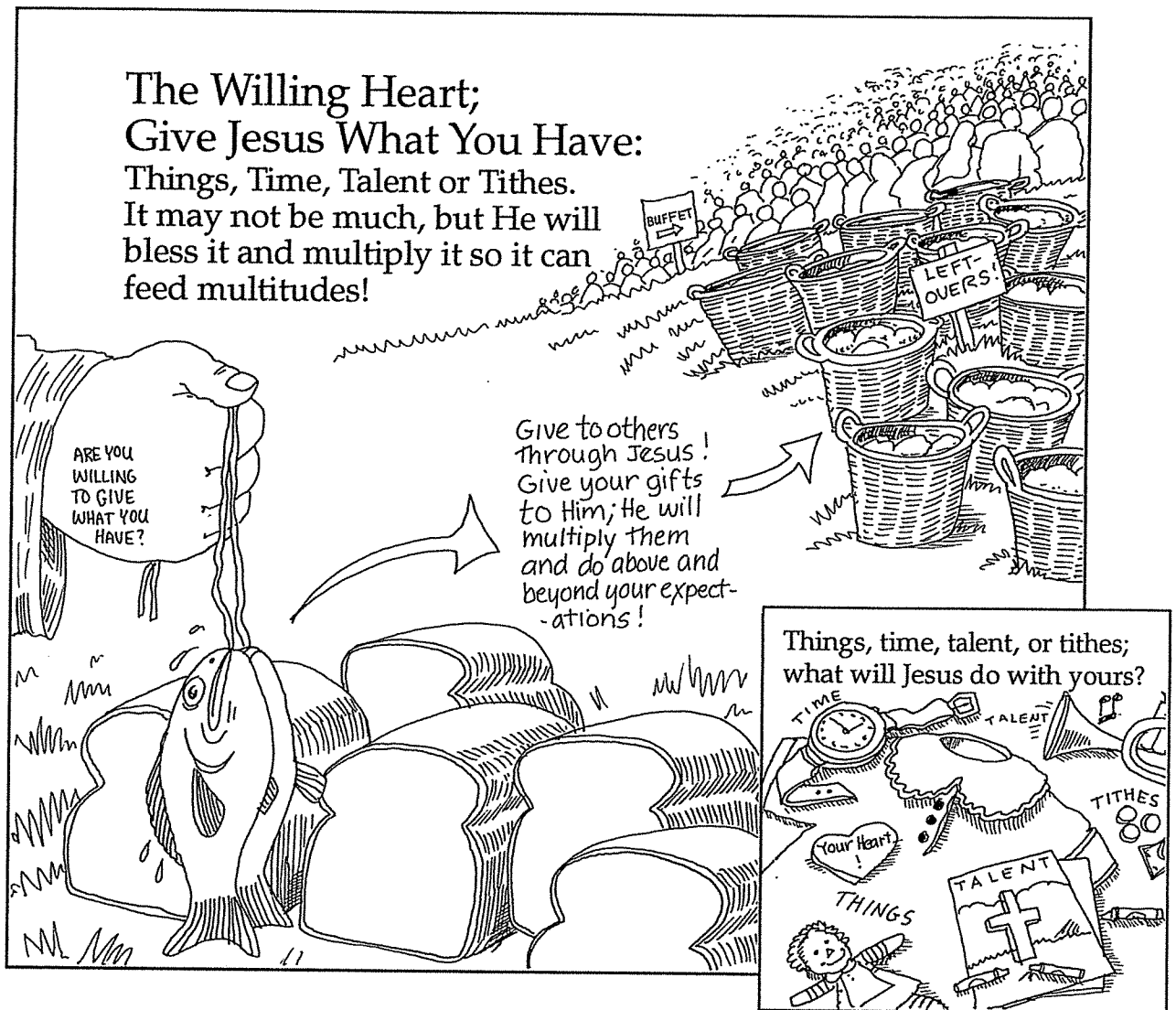
b. What could Herod have done to please God?

c. Read Proverbs 1:7-19. What does God say to do if someone tries to pressure you into doing what you know is wrong?

d. What can we not be if we chose to please men (or our peers) instead of God? (Gal. 1:10)

Today's Memory Verse

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." Galatians 1:10 (NKJV)



"When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.' But Jesus said to them, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' And they said to Him, 'We have here only five loaves and two fish.' He said, 'Bring them here to Me.' Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children."

-Matthew 14:15-21

"Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there." - Matthew 14:22-23

The disciples were probably tired and hungry. They wished the multitudes would go away! Jesus told the disciples, "You give them something to eat." Jesus taught the disciples and us a valuable lesson about serving the Lord and others. We need to be willing to give what little we have to Jesus. He will bless our gift to Him by multiplying it over and over! Sometimes we hold back from giving anything because we feel like it isn't enough. All we need to do is be willing to give. Jesus does miracles! He can make two fish and five loaves feed thousands. What do you suppose He can do with what you give him? Give Him your things, time, talent or your tithes and see! Believing is seeing!

**The Willing Heart;
Give Jesus What You Have
Matthew 14:15-23**

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 14:15-16. Who did Jesus say should give the multitudes food? (Matt.14:16)

2. a. Read Matthew 14:17-18. How could the disciples feed the multitudes with such a tiny amount of food? (Matt. 14:18; John 15:5)

- b. When we give to God or to others, how should we give? (II Cor. 9:6-15; Matt. 6:1-4)

3. a. Read Matthew 14:19-21. What did Jesus do with the small amount of fish and bread?

- b. How was this possible? (Luke 1:37)

4. a. Read Matthew 14:22-23. After a long day, how did Jesus end His day?

- b. How did Jesus pray? Why? (Matt. 14:23; Matt. 6:5-6)

*Note: Remember, there are times to pray in public. We are just not to do it with the wrong motive. It is a matter of the heart. However, Jesus makes the importance of a personal prayer life very clear.

Today's Memory Verse

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NKJV)

In The Storms Of Your Life,
Jesus Will Say;
"Be Of Good Cheer! It is I;
Do Not Be Afraid." (See Matthew 14:27.)



There will be storms of all sorts in your life. Will you remember to call Jesus? Nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Romans 8:35-39.) Not even death. Jesus knew the storm was coming. He was just waiting for Peter to call out to Him, "Lord, save me!" The others who were in the boat watched Peter and Jesus. Others will watch you in your storms. Let the Lord use your storms so others will see Jesus work in your life. They also will say, "Truly He is the Son of God" when they see Him deliver you.

"Therefore My people shall know My Name; Therefore they shall know in that day that I am He Who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.'" - Isaiah 52:6

"You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'" - Isaiah 41:9-10

Jesus had made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee while He sent the well-fed multitudes away.

"And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.' And Peter answered Him and said, 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' So He said, 'Come.' And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!' And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God.'"

"When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well." -Matthew 14:23-36

**In The Storms of Your Life,
Jesus Will Say; "Be of Good Cheer!
It Is I; Do Not Be Afraid."
Matthew 14:23-36**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. contrary - adverse, hostile
2. fourth watch of the night - between 3:00-6:00 A.M. according to the Roman system of night watches
3. Son of God - Jesus Christ, the Messiah

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 14:22-23. Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples out ahead of Him?

2. a. Read Matthew 14:24. Have the disciples been in a situation similar to this one before? (Matt. 8:23-24)

b. What happened? (Matt. 8:25-27)

3. a. Read Matthew 14:25-31. When did Peter start to sink? What was he looking at?

b. Who did Peter turn to for help?

c. Did Jesus immediately stop the storm? What did He do?

d. Did Jesus promise that we would never go through hard times? (John 16:33)

e. What did He promise? (Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4:6-7)

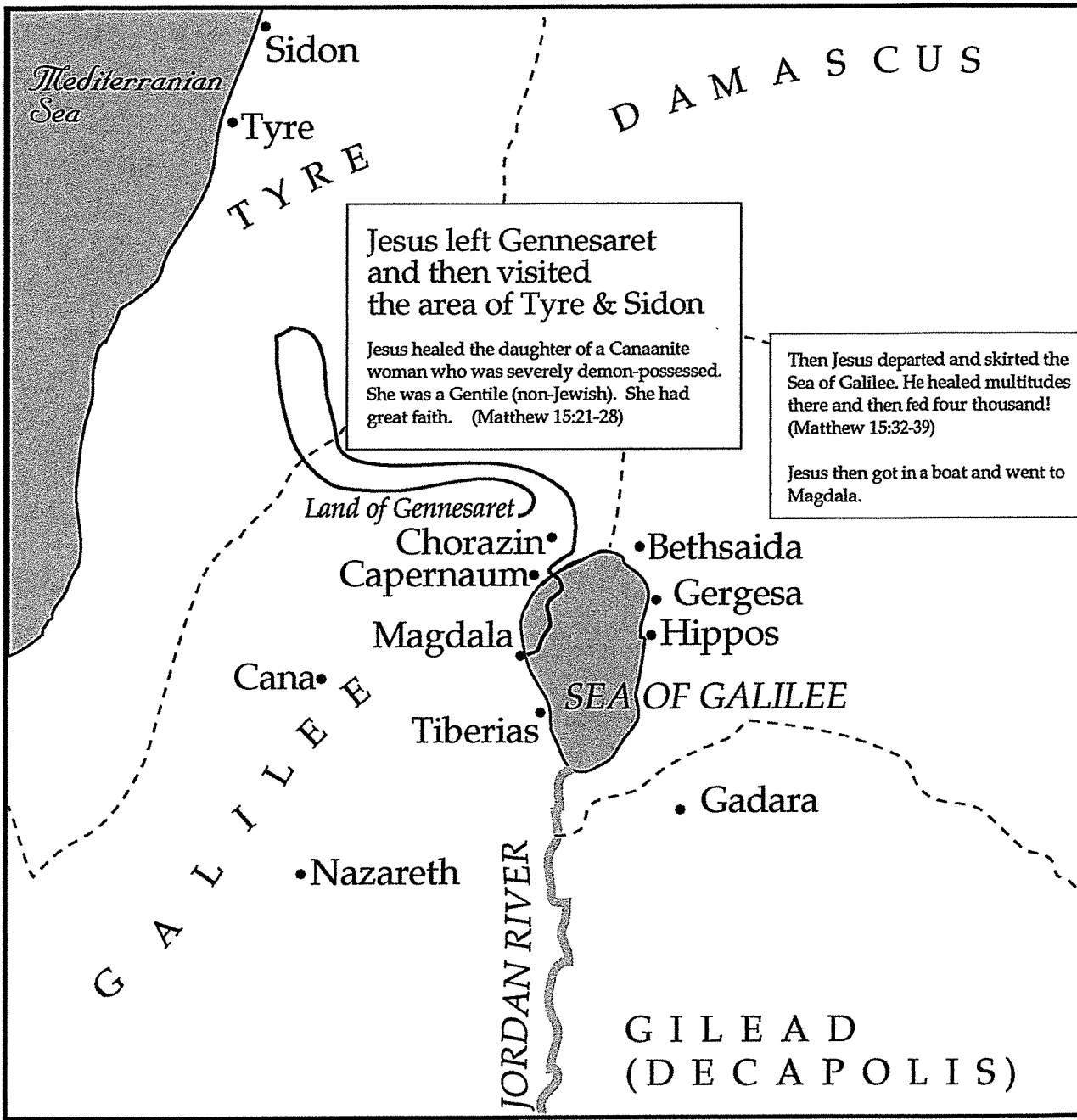
4. a. Read Matthew 14:32-36. Who did the disciples recognize Jesus to be?

b. Who do you believe Jesus to be?

Today's Memory Verse

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NKJV)

Apply Within for Kids- Matthew Chapter 15



Customs and Manners:

"It Is Corban"

Matthew 15:1-9

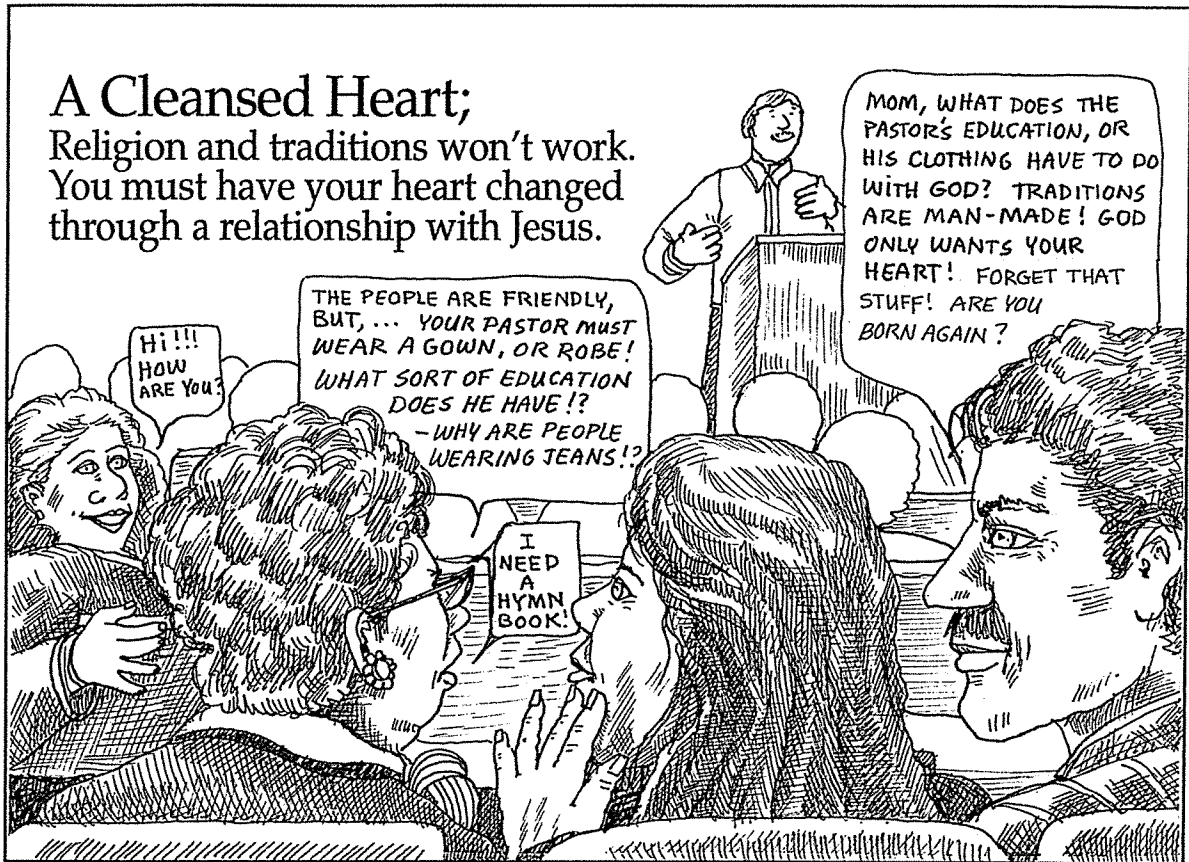
"For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the Word of God for the sake of your tradition."

Matthew 15:4-6 (NIV)

"But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the Word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." **Mark 7:11-13 (NIV)**

Corban

"The *corban* was an offering of any kind consecrated to God. It was right to make such offerings because God had commanded them; but the Saviour charges the Pharisees with placing their traditions above the Divine commands. For instance, God ordained honor and obedience to parents; but the Pharisees, by their traditionary explanation and abuse of the law of *corban*, completely nullified the law of parental honor. Their traditions taught that whatever was *corban*, that is, a gift consecrated to God, could not be alienated for any other purpose; but in the application of this principle, which in itself is correct enough, they manifested a wonderful ingenuity of perversion. If, for instance, parents desired help, and the son should say 'My property is *corban*,' it released him from all obligation to sustain his parents; nevertheless, strange to say, it did not bind him to consecrate his substance to sacred uses. He could use it for his own purposes, or give it to whom he pleased, except to those to whom he had said, 'It is *corban*.' No wonder the Saviour charged the Pharisees with 'making the word of God of none effect' through their tradition." Quote taken from Manners and Customs of the Bible, by James M. Freeman (pgs. 400-401)



"Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, 'Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.' He answered and said to them, 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, "Honor your father and your mother"; and "He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death." But you say, "Whoever says to his father or mother, 'Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God'-- then he need not honor his father or mother." Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'" - Matthew 15:1-9



We need to be born again to get a clean and new heart. Without a clean, new heart, we will just have a form of godliness coming from our lips. We'll become "religious," and set in our traditions rather than walking in a fresh and living relationship with Jesus.

Always follow the Word of God rather than the traditions of men. Men will invent rules and regulations to burden you and your joy will soon disappear.

Colossians 2:8 says,
"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

Traditions of men not only cheat you, but they are according to the principles of the world and are not according to Christ. Traditions of men are of the world, therefore they are opposed to God! (See 1 John 2:15-17.) Traditions that forbid marriage and command that certain foods cannot be eaten are called "doctrines of demons" in 1 Timothy 4:1-5.

Jesus warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees, which was hypocrisy (Luke 12:1). Traditions of men, and man-made regulations regarding everything from marriage, abstaining from marriage, eating special foods on special days, religious clothing, religious rituals (not taught in the Bible) which are seen by others, have an appearance of holiness and piety. But the true worship and service toward God has to be within the heart and according to the truth of the Word of God. Jesus is our only way into God's acceptance. Our rituals, clothing, what we eat, or whether we are married or not, have nothing to do with the heart. They are all things that are seen on the outside. The Pharisees had an appearance of holiness on the outside, but on the inside they were unchanged. That is hypocrisy.

A Cleansed Heart

Matthew 15:1-9

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. doctrines- teachings, instructions
2. hypocrite- pretending to be what one is not. This term is what the Greeks would call an actor on stage who would impersonate a character. This is where we get our term "two-faced."
3. Pharisees- (separated ones) - a religious and political party of the Jews in Palestine New Testament times. The Pharisees were known for insisting that the Law of God be observed as the scribes interpreted it.
4. scribes- one who would explain the Law in schools and synagogues
5. the tradition of elders- (traditions of men) the Pharisees delivered to the people by tradition of their ancestors many commands which were not in the Law of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy) or contradicted the Law of Moses. The words of the elders were considered more desirable than the words of the prophets inspired by God.

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 15:1-2. Who's "law" did the Pharisees accuse the disciples of breaking, man's or God's?

b. Read Matthew 15:3. Who's Law did Jesus accuse the Pharisees of breaking, man's or God's?

c. If you had to choose between keeping man's law or God's Law, which one would be more important to keep?

d. On which two commandments do all of the Law and Prophets hang? (Matt. 22:37-40)
2. Read Matthew 15:4-5. What exactly was Jesus accusing the Pharisees of? (See "Manners and Customs" handout.)
3. Read Matthew 15:6-9. How did Isaiah's prophecy come to pass?

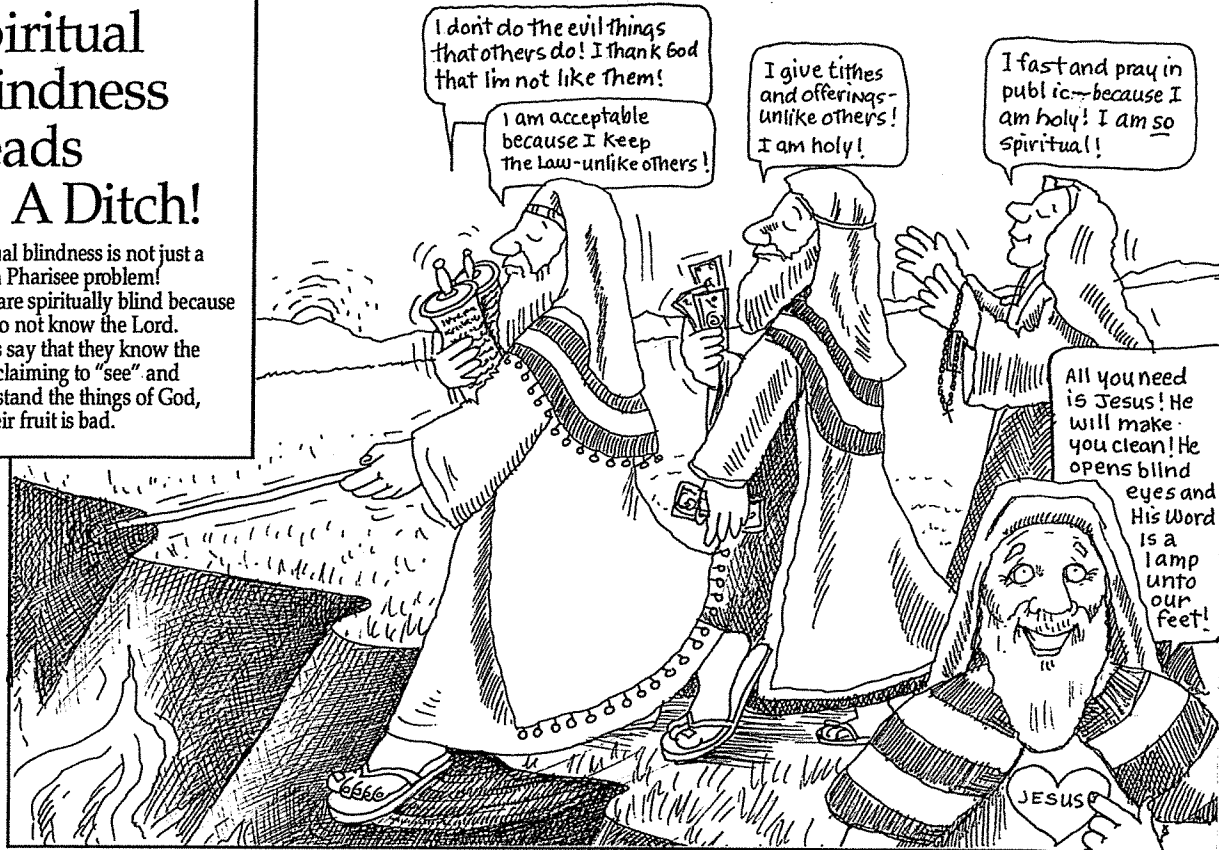
Today's Memory Verse

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation."

Psalm 119:97-99 (NKJV)

Spiritual Blindness Leads To A Ditch!

Spiritual blindness is not just a Jewish Pharisee problem! Some are spiritually blind because they do not know the Lord. Others say that they know the Lord, claiming to "see" and understand the things of God, yet their fruit is bad.



"When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, 'Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.' Then His disciples came and said to Him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?' But He answered and said, 'Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. (See Matthew 13:40) Let them alone. (See Matthew 13:29, regarding tares.) They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.'"

"Then Peter answered and said to Him, 'Explain this parable to us.' So Jesus said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.'"
- Matthew 15:10-20

Remember that there will be false teachers and you must look at their fruit. Do they have love or condemnation for others? This is an easy barometer for inspecting your own heart and checking the fruit of those who might lead you: "But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." - 1 John 1:11 The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Are we blind also?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains." - John 9:40-41

If you follow blind guides, you too, will fall into the ditch! This is also an excellent verse for helping to discern a real walk with the Lord in grace, from a legalistic religious system of works:

"Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head (Jesus), from Whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations-- 'Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,' which all concern things which perish with the using-- according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh."
- Colossians 2:16-23

Blind guides try to polish the flesh through works and rituals, rather letting it be crucified with Jesus. Romans 6:6, says that the old man (our flesh, the sin nature) was crucified with Jesus when we were born again. We need to be made new, not just painted up! You must be born again (John 3:3).



Our mouths will tell us where our hearts are!
Eating and drinking certain things won't defile us.
It's a heart thing! Do you know Jesus?

Spiritual Blindness Leads To A Ditch! Matthew 15:10-20

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. defile- to make unclean, pollute
2. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
3. Pharisees- (separated ones) - a religious and political party of the Jews in Palestine in New Testament times. The Pharisees were known for insisting that the Law of God be observed as the scribes interpreted it.

Discussion Questions

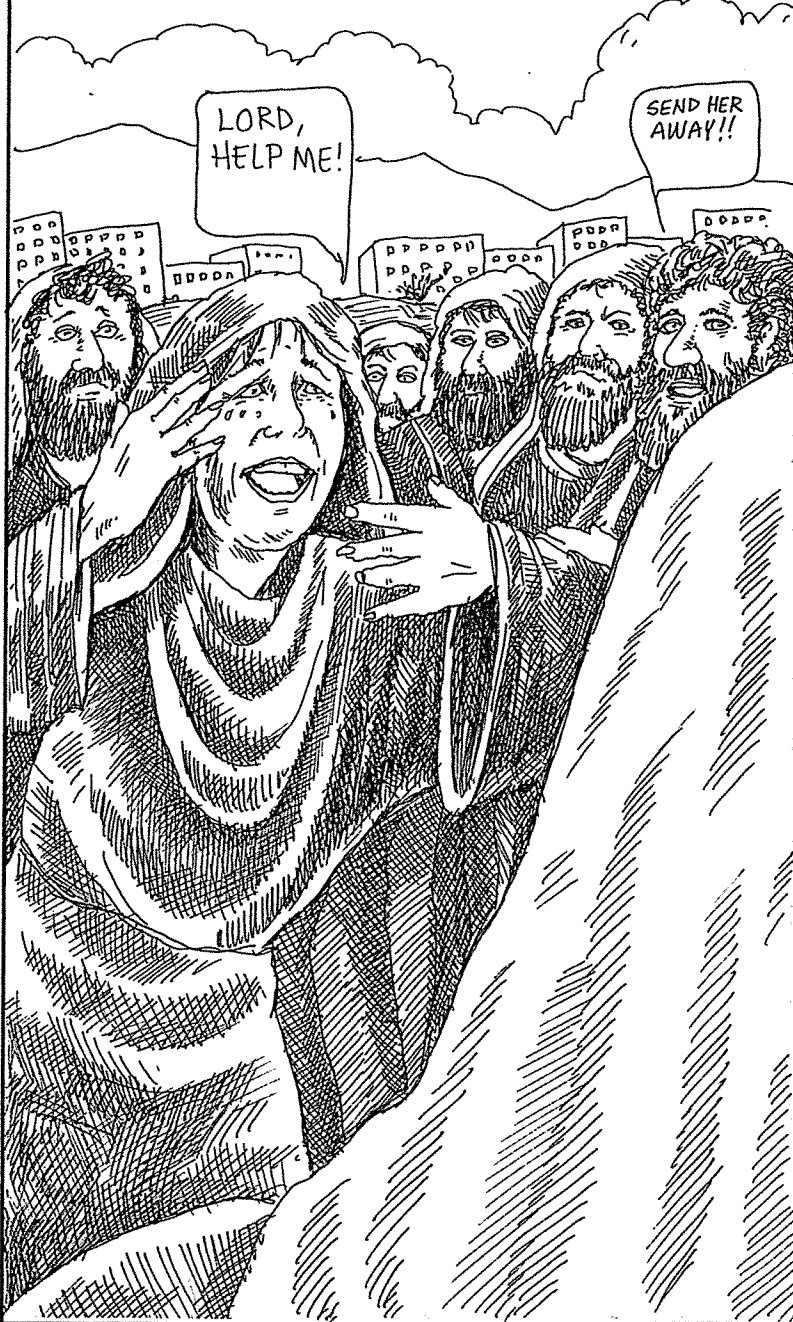
1. Read Matthew 15:10-12. Why do you think that the Pharisees were offended? (Matt. 15:1-2)
2. a. Read Matthew 15:13-14a. Jesus taught about this in a parable. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. What did Jesus call the bad seeds sown amongst the good seed? (Matt. 13:24-25)
b. Were they uprooted immediately? Why? (Matt. 13:28-29, Matt. 15:13-14a)
c. When will they be uprooted? (Matt. 13:30, Matt. 13:39)
d. What will be done to them? When? (Matt. 13:40)
3. a. Read Matt. 15:14. What other example of "the blind leading the blind" is in the Bible? (John 3:1-10)
b. Why could the Pharisees only teach the Law and traditions and not things concerning the condition of the heart, things spiritually discerned? (I Cor. 2:14)
c. Where will a blind (not born-again) teacher lead you? (Matt. 15:14)
4. a. Read Matthew 15:15-20. What defiles man? (Matt. 15:18-19)
b. Can certain foods or rituals cleanse you? (Col. 2:16-23)
c. What can cleanse our hearts? (I John 1:7-10)

Today's Memory Verse

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."
Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

Ask The Lord For Help With A Sincere Heart.

It is a matter of the heart, not formulas.



"Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.' But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him saying, 'Send her away, for she cries out after us.' But He answered and said, 'I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.' And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour." - Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus departed from the Pharisees and went into the area north of Israel and then to an area called Decapolis, where there were ten Gentile cities. The Gentiles were not schooled in the Word of God, or in the traditions of the Jews, but they followed many false gods. They had probably heard about all the miracles that Jesus had done in Israel, and that He was a Son of David (or descendant of King David). She didn't know Him personally but she realized that by calling Him the Son of David, she might get help for her daughter. God doesn't hear us better if we say special words to Him, or perform special rituals. He only wants us to cry out to Him from a sincere heart without formulas or rituals. Jesus didn't answer her until she worshiped Him and simply said, "Lord, help me!" Then He answered her. She persisted and He was amazed at her faith, and He gave her the desires of her heart. "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." - Psalm 37:4

"Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up the mountain and sat down there. Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel." - Matthew 15:29-31



When God answers your prayers, thank Him and glorify Him. Don't forget that He loves you! He's full of compassion.

**Ask The Lord For Help
With A Sincere Heart
Matthew 15:21-31**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. Gentile- not Jewish
2. Son of David- the Messiah (Jesus) whom God had promised to Israel
3. Tyre and Sidon- Gentile territory north of Palestine
4. woman of Canaan- a Gentile descendant of the pre-Israelite inhabitants of Palestine

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 15:21-22. Who does this woman recognize, with her words, Jesus to be?
2. a. Read Matthew 15:23-26. What do you think that Jesus is doing with this woman? (Job 23:10; Ps. 7:9; Ps. 17:3; Ps. 105:19)

b. Can you think of at least one other incident where God did this to one of His people? How? (Heb. 11:17)

c. Who does God resist? Who does God give grace to? (I Peter 5:5)

d. Do you think that Jesus will give grace to the woman of Canaan? Why or why not? (Matt. 15:25; Ps. 51:16-17)
3. a. Read Matthew 15:25-28. Why do you think that Jesus was pleased with this woman? (I Chron. 29:17)

b. What example did this woman give us that we should follow? (Deut. 4:29; Matt. 7:7-10)
4. Read Matthew 15:29-31. When true miracles happen, who should get the credit? Who should be glorified?

Today's Memory Verse

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you
in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you."
I Peter 5:6-7 (NKJV)

Jesus Feeds A Multitude of Gentiles.

It's a new circumstance, but Jesus is the same God Who fed thousands of Israelites just a short while ago. He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think!

"Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, 'I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.' Then His disciples said to Him, 'Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?' Jesus said to them, 'How many loaves do you have?' And they said, 'Seven, and a few little fish.'

So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left. Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children. And He sent away the multitudes, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala. - Matthew 15:32-39

So far in the Book of Matthew, Jesus, the Bread of Life, has fed the multitudes at two separate times with just a few fish and some loaves.

JESUS FEEDS ISRAELITES

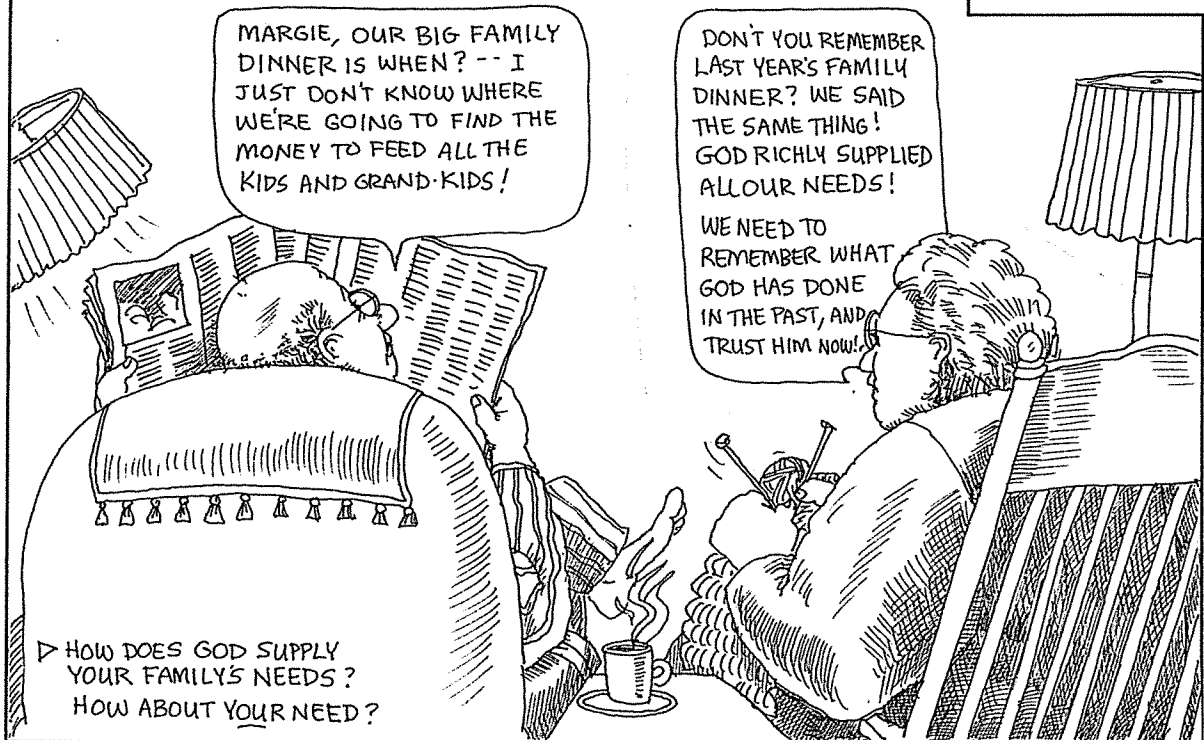
(See Matthew 14:13-21.)

Five loaves and two fish fed five-thousand Israelites. They sat on the grass (it was probably springtime). After they ate, twelve baskets full of fragments remained.

JESUS FEEDS GENTILES

(See Matthew 15:32-39.)

Seven loaves and two fish fed four-thousand Gentiles. They sat on the ground (it was probably summer). After they ate, seven baskets full of fragments remained.



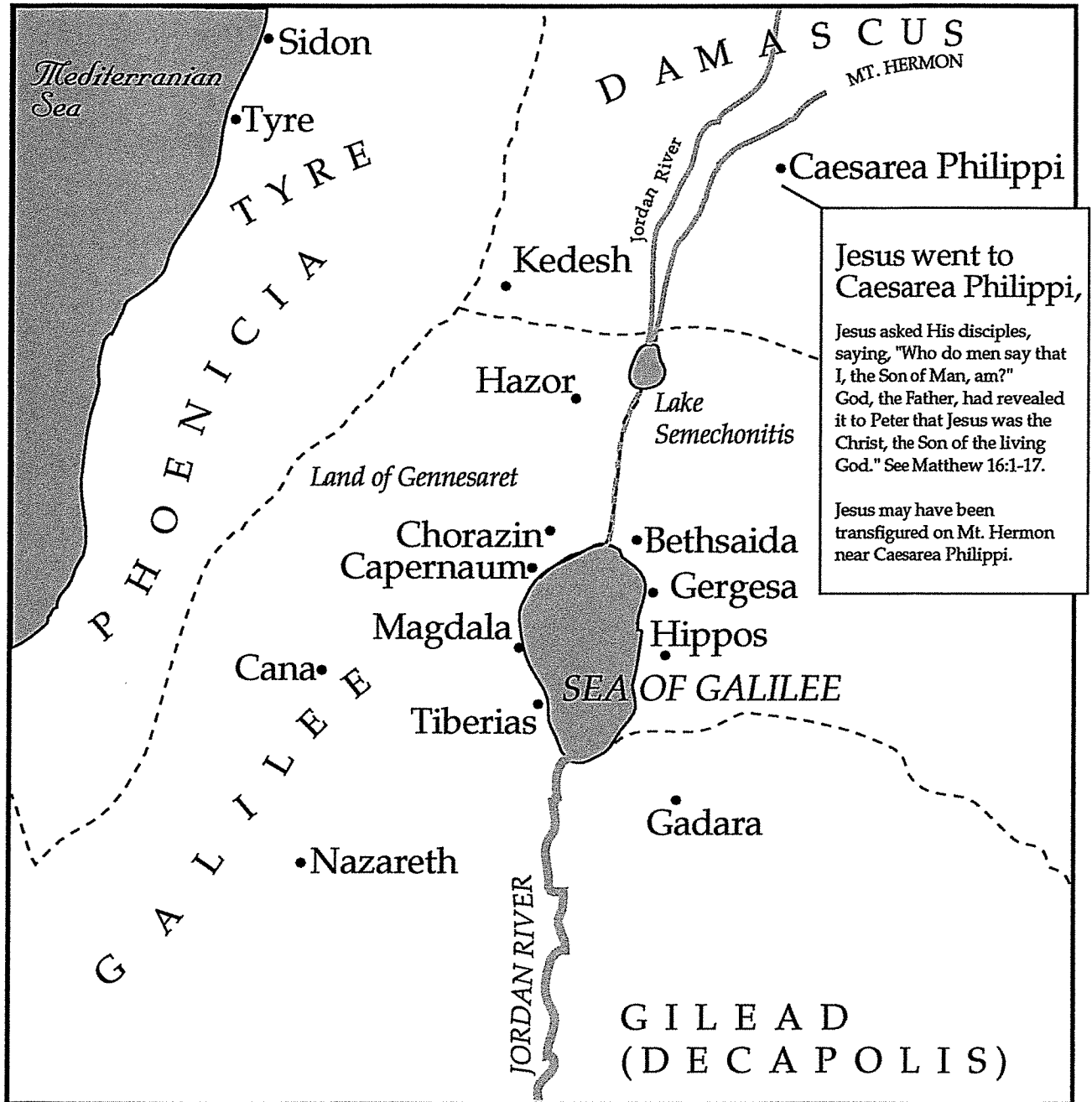
Remember Matthew 14:13-21? Jesus had fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. The disciples saw the miracle and they saw what Jesus was able to do with what they gave Him. Jesus blessed it and multiplied it to feed thousands of people.

This is a new event, a new circumstance, and new people (Gentiles). How could Jesus do it this time? His disciples said, "Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?" They had already forgotten the first event in Matthew 14. Jesus is the Bread of Life! Nothing is too hard for Jesus. God fed the Israelites bread from heaven in the wilderness during Old Testament times (See Exodus 16:4.).

If He's done a great work in the past, He's able to do a great work now.
The circumstances are always different, but God is always the same!

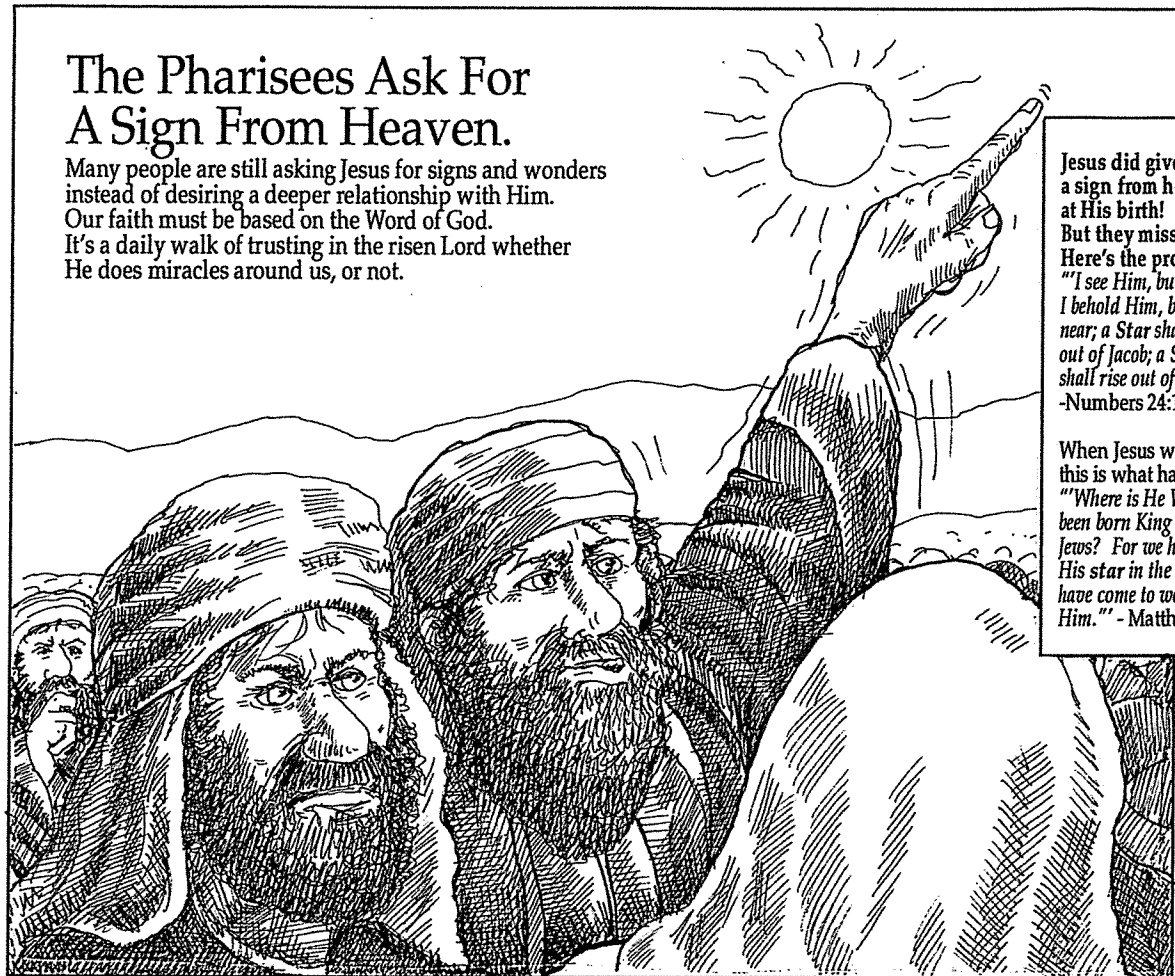


Apply Within for Kids- Matthew Chapter 16 & 17



Jesus had been in Magdala (Matthew 16), where He told the Pharisees that the only sign He would give them would be the sign of the prophet Jonah (Matthew 16:1-4). He was prophesying His coming death and resurrection. Then He and His disciples moved to the region of Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13). It was there that He told His disciples about His coming death and resurrection (Matthew 16:21).

Jesus healed a boy of demon possession and then they returned to Galilee (Matthew 17:22). While at Capernaum, Jesus sent Peter to cast a hook into the Sea of Galilee and to take the fish that came up first. There was money inside the fish's mouth, so they went and paid their taxes (Matthew 17:24-27)! The Lord can provide for all our needs!



The Pharisees Ask For A Sign From Heaven.

Many people are still asking Jesus for signs and wonders instead of desiring a deeper relationship with Him. Our faith must be based on the Word of God. It's a daily walk of trusting in the risen Lord whether He does miracles around us, or not.

Jesus did give them a sign from heaven at His birth! But they missed it! Here's the prophecy: "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel..." -Numbers 24:17

When Jesus was born, this is what happened; "Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." - Matthew 2:2

"Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, 'When it is evening you say, "It will be fair weather, for the sky is red"; and in the morning, "It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening." Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.' And He left them and departed." - Matthew 16:1-4

The Jews anxiously awaited the coming Messiah, yet when He arrived they rejected Him. The only sign Jesus promised them was the sign of the prophet Jonah. (See Matthew 12:38-42.) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

This verse speaks of Jesus' death and resurrection.

We need to be born again, and then know the Word of God so we won't be ignorant of the signs of the times in which we live. Jesus is coming to get us soon! Like the Pharisees, today many "religious" people will not be able to discern the times in which they live either. Jesus said that when He returns, it will be as it was in the days of Noah. People were eating and drinking and marrying right up until Noah entered the ark. Then destruction came upon them. He will come when we least expect it. Be born again! Be ready!

"Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. Then Jesus said to them, 'Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.' And they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'It is because we have taken no bread.' But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, 'O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.' Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

- Matthew 16:5-12

Leaven in the Bible is almost always used to portray sin. The leaven that Jesus told them about was not the leavening used in bread, but that of doctrine (false doctrine). A little false doctrine hidden in the kingdom of heaven will corrupt the whole lump. (See Matthew 13:33.) Know the Bible!



The Pharisees Ask For A Sign From Heaven

Matthew 16:1-12

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. doctrine- teaching or instruction
2. hypocrite- pretending to be what one is not. This term is what the Greeks would call an actor on stage who would impersonate a character. This is where we get our term "two-faced."
3. leaven- a substance used to produce fermentation in dough and make it rise. Leaven referred to in Scripture represents sin (I Cor. 5:6-8), false doctrine (Gal. 5:7-9), and hypocrisy (Luke 12:1).
4. Pharisees- (separated ones) - a religious and political party of the Jews in Palestine times. The Pharisees were known for insisting that the Law of God be observed as the scribes interpreted it.
5. Sadducees- a Jewish sect in opposition to the Pharisees. They rejected "the traditions of elders" made up of customs, rulings, and interpretations that the scribes passed on as the authoritative way in which God's Law should be applied. They accepted the teachings of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy) only and rejected the later books of the Old Testament. They did not believe in the resurrection of man, but believed that the soul dies with the body (Matt. 22:23). They interpreted the Law literally and tended to support a strict justice as opposed to mercy toward the offender.

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 16:1. What were the Pharisees and Sadducees doing to Jesus?
b. Why was this wrong? (Deut. 6:16; Matt. 4:7)
2. a. Read Matthew 16:2-4. What kind of people or generation seek a sign? (Matt. 12:39)
b. What was the sign Jesus would give them?(Mark 10:33-34)
c. Who will come with great signs and lying wonders? Who will follow him? (II Thes. 2:9-10)
d. If the unrighteous seek out signs, how do the righteous live? Do they need a sign? (Rom. 1:17)
e. Why was the Bible written? (John 20:29-31)
3. a. Read Matthew 16:5-12. How are the Pharisees' and Sadducees' doctrines like leaven in bread?
b. We don't have Pharisees and Sadducees to take heed and beware of today, but who or what do we need to watch out for? (II Tim. 4:3-4)
c. How can we avoid being sucked into unsound doctrine? (Josh. 1:8; II Tim. 3:16; II Tim. 4:2,5)

Today's Memory Verse

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

Who Do You Say That Jesus Is?

"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

- Matthew 16:13-16

Who do you say that Jesus is? What you believe about Jesus will determine your destiny.

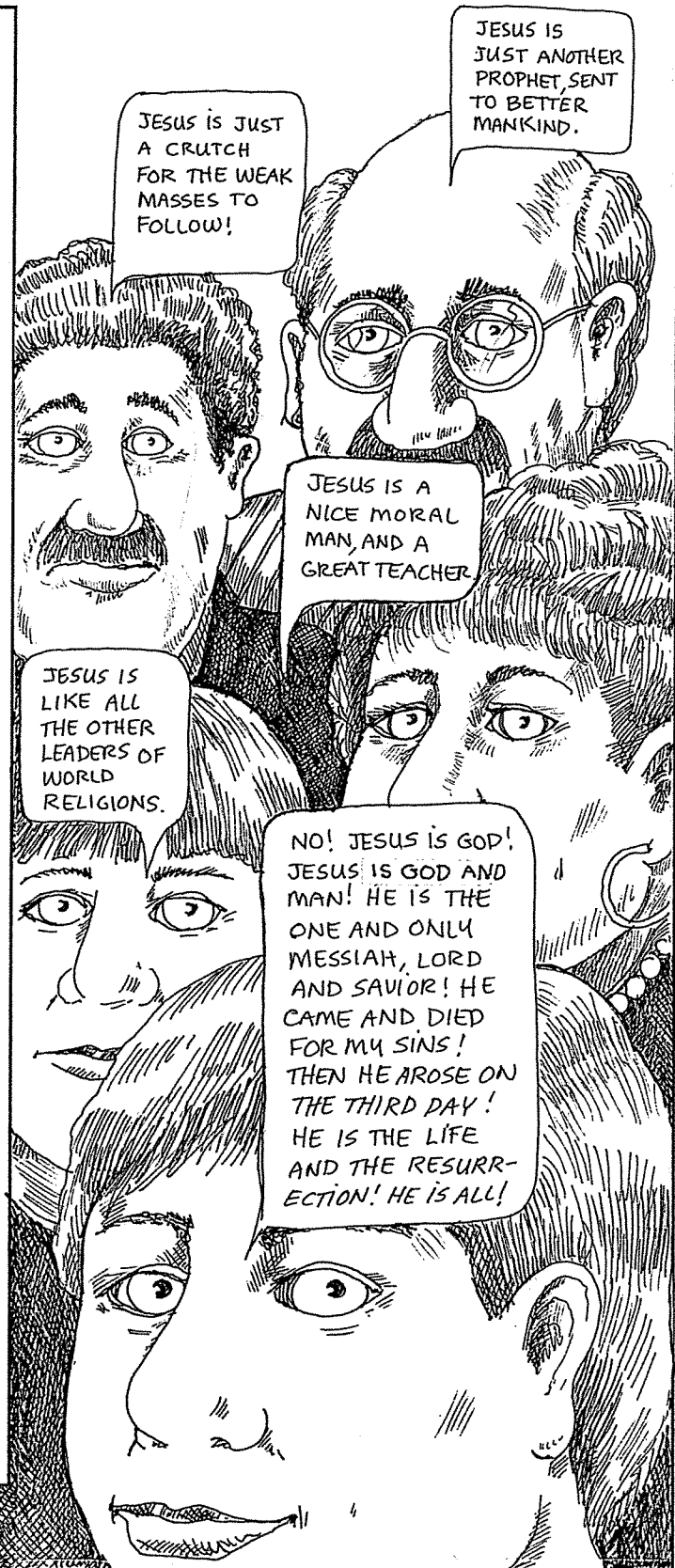
Jesus said, "... for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24

He is far more than a good teacher!
He is God, the Son. He is Lord and Savior.

Jesus is far more than John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or any other prophet. God used all these various men in His plan and for His purposes, but they were only men. Jesus is God in the flesh. He is far more than a nice moral teacher. He is the living God, far above the world's religious leaders!

Instead of Jesus, some churches pick up the traits of John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, and other prophets, but we must always focus on Jesus Christ. If the church gets side-tracked and they forget Jesus, they have nothing to offer! They become dead spiritually, even though they are baptizing like John the Baptist, or calling down fire from heaven like Elijah, or weeping for the lost like Jeremiah. There is no ministry apart from Him. Paul told us, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." - 1 Corinthians 2:2.

Without Jesus and His love in our hearts, we are just making noise. Do you want Jesus Christ in your heart? Ask and you will receive! Knock and the door of your heart will be opened. He loves you!



Who Do You Say That Jesus Is? Matthew 16:13-16

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. Christos ("the Christ")- this is the Greek term for "Messiah," meaning, "Anointed One"
2. Messiah- a Hebrew term meaning "Anointed One." This word is associated with the anointing of a prophet, priest, or king. Jesus is all three for us.

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 16:13-16. What are the many opinions of man about who Jesus is? (Matt. 14:1-2; Matt. 16:14)
b. Who had the right answer? What is the right answer? (Matt. 16:16)
c. Who revealed this answer to Peter? (Matt. 16:17)
d. How does this kind of faith come about? (Rom. 10:17)
e. We know that Jesus is God and man. We also know that when Peter heard Jesus speak, he heard the _____! (John 1:1, 14)
f. What does the Bible say about the Word of God? (II Tim. 3:16-17)
2. The Old Testament points to Jesus. We will cover just a few of the prophecies about "the Messiah" or "the Christ" in the order that they came to pass and see how these prophecies point to Jesus. Fill in the blanks:

The Old Testament indicates that the Messiah would be born of a _____ (Isaiah 7:14) in the town of _____ (Micah 5:2) and would be a descendant of the house of _____ (II Samuel 7:12,16-17). He would be a "_____ of _____" who would be _____ by His own people (Isaiah 53:3), followed by a friend b_____ Him (Psalm 41:9), and He would _____ for our _____ (Isaiah 53:12). He would be raised from the _____ (Psalm 16:10) to take His place at the _____ / _____ of God (Psalm 110:1).

We are now waiting for Christ to return and _____ on His _____! (Zechariah 6:11-15)

3. Who do **YOU** say Jesus is?

Today's Memory Verse

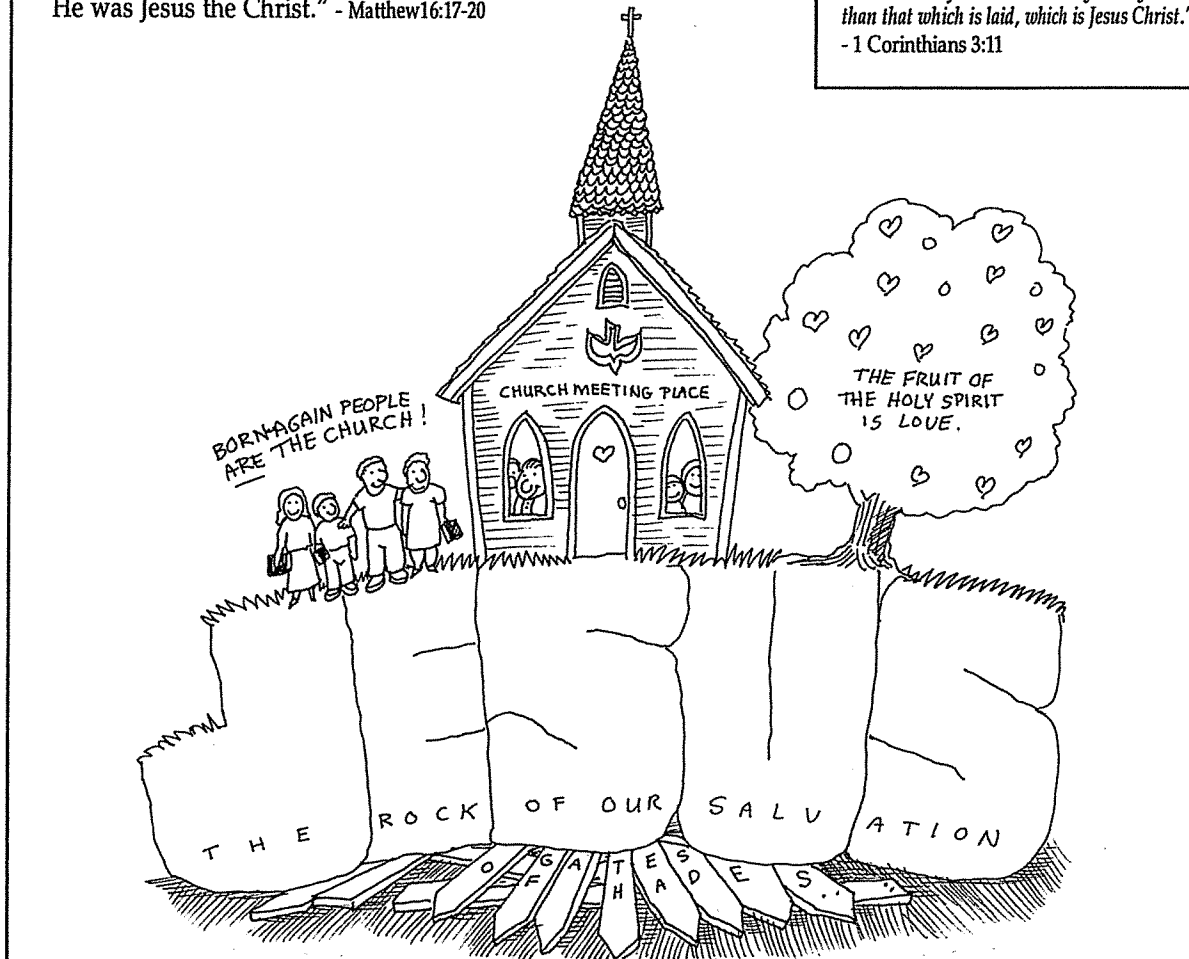
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1,14 (NKJV)

Jesus Christ; The Rock of Our Salvation and The Foundation of The Church.

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah (Simon, son of Jonah), for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ." - Matthew 16:17-20

The Father revealed Jesus' identity to Peter. It wasn't Peter's great mind or abilities that gave him the understanding to know that Jesus was the Messiah, or the Christ. That knowledge came through the Father!

The true church is built upon a solid foundation - Jesus Christ. It's not built upon sinful and flawed men, such as Peter, the Pope, Joseph Smith, or other religious leaders found in other religions. Simon means "shifting sand," and Peter (Petros) means "little rock." Jesus is the foundational Rock, like bedrock or "Petra." *"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* - 1 Corinthians 3:11



Everything except Jesus Christ is like standing upon shifting sand. He is the Rock.

Jesus said that the gates of Hades or Hell will not prevail against His church. His church will remain until He returns for His bride (the church, or body of true believers who are born again). Jesus gave the keys of the Kingdom to His church. Keys open doors or lock doors. We pray that God will open doors for us to share the Gospel, and He is faithful to open doors according to *HIS WILL*, or shut doors according to *HIS WILL*.

Cults are built upon their fallible leaders. They may mention Jesus and claim Jesus, but they usually say that the Word of God is corrupted (*Jesus is the Word of God!*). Mormonism's Joseph Smith taught that all the churches were corrupted. So he started a new religion. But Jesus said the gates of Hell would not destroy or prevail against His church. Catholicism teaches that their Pope is infallible, but *everyone* except Jesus is fallible, sinful, and in need of a Savior.

**Jesus Christ;
The Rock Of Our Salvation And
The Foundation Of The Church
Matthew 16:17-20**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blessed- possessing the favor of God
2. cornerstone- a stone placed at the corner or the intersecting angle, where two walls of a building come together. By uniting two intersecting walls, a cornerstone helped align the whole building and tie it together. Jesus is our cornerstone. Read Ephesians 2:19-22.
3. Peter- (Petros) - little rock; a detached boulder that might be easily thrown or moved
4. prevail against- used in a hostile sense, meaning to overcome
5. Rock- (Petra) - a mass of rock, an unmovable rock. Used metaphorically of Christ and the testimony concerning Him which is an unchangeable, immovable testimony (Matt. 16:18).
6. Simon- shifting sand

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 16:17-19. Did Jesus mean that He would build His church upon Peter? Explain. (Acts 5:38b-39; Eph. 2:19-22)
- b. What is the difference in the meaning of Peter (Petros) and Rock (Petra)? (See vocab.)
- c. Who does Petros refer to?
- d. Who does Petra always refer to? (Deut. 32:4; I Cor. 10:4)
2. a. Jesus taught that when you build a house, you should build it on what sort of foundation? (Matt. 7:24-27)
- b. How can you build upon the Rock? (Matt. 7:24)
3. Read Matthew 16:20. It was not yet time for Christ to be presented as the Christ, the Messiah. That happens in Matthew 21. So Christ tells His disciples not to tell anyone that He is the Christ. But, now what are we commanded to do? (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15)

Today's Memory Verse

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
I Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV)

Do You Want To Follow Jesus?

"From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" - Matthew 16:21-23

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'" - Matthew 16:24-26

Peter had just had a grand revelation from the Father regarding Jesus being the Messiah, and now Peter is a pawn of Satan! We are like Peter. God shows us something great, and the next minute we are floundering again. One minute we are mindful about the things of God, and the next minute we are mindful about the things of man and this world. We need the grace of God. We need to extend that grace to other believers too, because they will goof up and go the wrong way sometimes. Love covers a multitude of sins.

Jesus had to die and rise again so Peter and all of us could be born again into the Kingdom of God.

Deny yourself and follow Jesus. Denying yourself means letting go of your own desires and wishes for your life. You just say, "Lord use me however, and wherever You wish." Let go of things to follow Jesus. We may own things, but we know they are His first. Our very lives are His first. Let your life be lived according to His will rather than your own. Life is the most full when we live for Him. Lay down your life, die to yourself so you can truly live! God desires to use us to reach the lost with the Gospel. He works through willing vessels who are willing to say, "Not my will, but Thy will."



Do You Want To Follow Jesus?

Matthew 16:21-26

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. chief priests- during the New Testament times, the "chief priests" were the holders of the priestly offices of higher rank in the temple and along with the high priest were leaders in the Sanhedrin
2. deny- refuse; Matt. 16:24 is referring to completely renounce one's self, and surrendering all of one's interests and enjoyments to the control of Jesus
3. elders- Matt. 16:21 is referring to a group of members of the Jewish Sanhedrin at Jerusalem
4. rebuke- scold
5. Sanhedrin- the highest ruling body and court of justice among the Jewish people in the time of Jesus
6. scribes- one who would explain the Law in schools and synagogues

Discussion Questions

1. The disciples understood that Jesus was more than a prophet, even that He was the Christ, the Son of God (Matt. 16:16). Upon that knowledge, the Church would be built on the Rock - Jesus (Matt. 16:18). From that time on Jesus began to explain His mission on earth. Read Matthew 16:21. What four things did Jesus say would happen?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. a. Read Matthew 16:22-23. Who's influence did Peter fall under? (Matt. 16:22)
 - b. When we are mindful of the things of men and not of the things of God, who's influence can we fall under?
3. a. Read Matthew 16:24. How can we be mindful of the things of God and not of men?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - b. How does one "deny" himself? (See vocab.)
 - c. What does "Take up your cross" mean? (Rom. 6:1-14)
4. a. Read Matt 16:25. What happens to those who desire to save their own lives (being mindful of men)?
 - b. What happens to those who lose their lives for His sake (taking up one's cross and being mindful of God)?
5. Read Matthew 16:26-27. If you live for yourself, you may gain every material thing you ever wanted, even power and fame, but what will you lose? Is it worth it? (Also, see Luke 12:13-21)

Today's Memory Verse

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26 (NKJV)

Works Are A Result Of Salvation, But Salvation Is Not A Result Of Works!

"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." - Matthew 16:27

We are not saved according to our works, but only by faith in Jesus Christ. We are His workmanship. He has not only given salvation to all who trust in Jesus, but He has also prepared works for us to walk in. Rewards will be given when He returns. He has done everything for us! We just have to say, "yes, Lord Jesus."

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:8-10

Even our faith has been given to us so we are able to believe and be saved! He is the Author and Finisher of our faith! (See Hebrews 12:2.)



**Works Are A Result Of Salvation,
But Salvation Is Not A Result Of Works!
Matthew 16:27**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. faith- see Romans 4:13,21-22 and Hebrews 11:1
2. grace- a favor done without expectation of return; unearned and undeserved favor
3. repentance- a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and turning back to God with a feeling of remorse or regret for past conduct
4. salvation- the spiritual and eternal deliverance granted immediately by God to those who accept His Son, the Lord Jesus (John 3:16), in whom alone it is to be obtained (Acts 4:12), and upon confession of Him as Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
5. saved- delivered from eternal death and punishment
6. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 16:27. When Jesus returns in the Glory of His Father with His angels, what is He going to do?

b. Read Matthew 16:24. What will happen to those who do this? (Mark 10:29-30)
2. a. What must one do to be saved? (Rom. 10:9-10; I John 1:9)

b. Will doing good things and being nice get us to heaven? Why or why not? (Eph. 2:8-9)
3. a. If we are in Christ (Christians), what are we created for? (Eph. 2:10)

b. What does the Bible say about someone's faith who doesn't do good works? (James 2:14-18)

c. When we become Christians, what happens to us? (II Cor. 5:17)

Today's Memory Verse

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV)