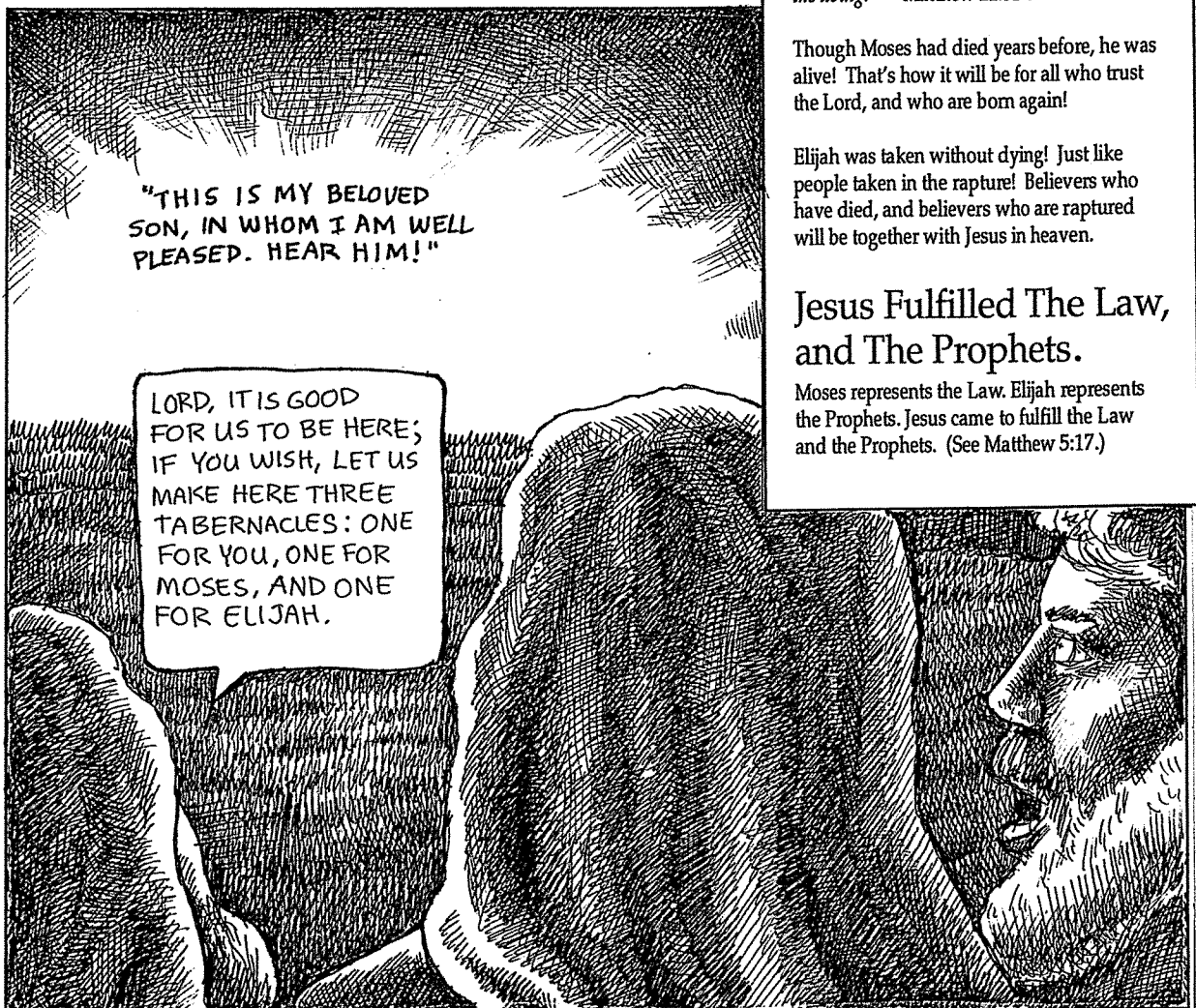


Apply Within For Kids - Matthew 16:28 & Matthew 17:1-5

Jesus Is Transfigured Before Their Eyes!

"Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." - Matthew 16:28

"Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!'" - Matthew 17:1-5



Jesus gives us an example; Get away from everything and spend time with the Lord. Peter, James, and John all recognized Moses and Elijah! Moses had died, and Elijah had been taken to heaven in a chariot of fire a long time before this!

Later, Jesus will tell the Sadducees about the resurrection; "But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.'" - Matthew 22:31-32

Though Moses had died years before, he was alive! That's how it will be for all who trust the Lord, and who are born again!

Elijah was taken without dying! Just like people taken in the rapture! Believers who have died, and believers who are raptured will be together with Jesus in heaven.

Jesus Fulfilled The Law, and The Prophets.

Moses represents the Law. Elijah represents the Prophets. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. (See Matthew 5:17.)

Apply Within For Kids - Matthew 16:28 & Matthew 17:1-5

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add space!

Jesus gives us the example to get away from everything around us to spend time with the Lord. Peter, James, and John all recognized Moses and Elijah! Moses had died, and Elijah had been taken to heaven in a chariot of fire a long time before this! *add a space*

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Should we cap this? were R speaking of His Resurrection



Jesus Is Transfigured Before Their Eyes! Matthew 16:28-17:5

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. Elijah- literally means "God is Jehovah." He is a prophet in the Old Testament. Read about him in I Kings 17:1- II Kings 2:11 on your own.
2. Moses- literally means "drawing out (of the water)," i.e. "rescued." This name was given to the law giver of Israel by the daughter of Pharaoh in Egypt. She saw him in a small ark in the river and "drew" him "out of the water" and raised him as her own. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (Genesis - Deuteronomy). These five books tell a lot of history and the Law God gave to Moses to give to His people.
3. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form
4. tabernacle- a shelter of some sort
5. transfigured- Matthew 17 uses this word to describe Jesus when He transformed from His earthly form to His supernatural form while He was with Moses and Elijah on the mountain

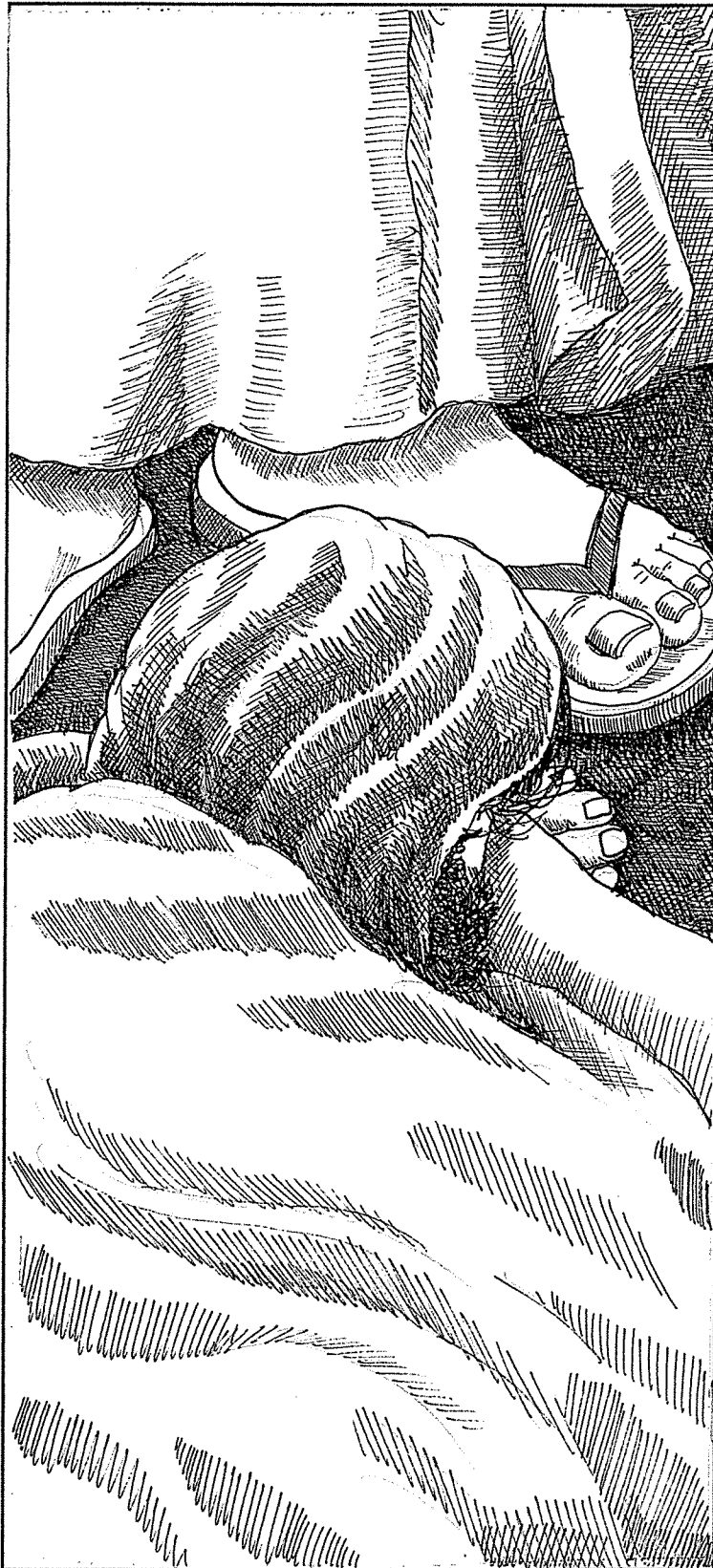
Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 16:28-17:3. What were Jesus, Moses, and Elijah talking about? (Luke 9:30-31)
b. What does Moses represent? (See front of handout and vocab.)
c. What does Elijah represent? (See front of handout and vocab.)
d. What did Jesus come to do with the Law and the Prophets? (Matt. 5:17)
2. a. Read Matthew 17:1-5. Peter recognizes that this is a special moment and wants to pay tribute to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. What does God want Peter to do?
b. What does God want us to do concerning His Son? (Matt.17:5)
c. What does the Bible say will happen to those who won't listen to Him and reject His words? (Deut. 18-19; John 12:47-49)

Today's Memory Verse

"Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40 (NKJV)

Apply Within For Kids - Matthew 17:6-13



*Jesus said, "Arise,
And Do Not Be Afraid."*

"And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, 'Arise, and do not be afraid.' When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, 'Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.' And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise, the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist."

- Matthew 17:6-13

Jesus was transfigured, or changed before their eyes. Jesus is God. What does God look like? *"And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a Man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking. And He said to me, 'Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you.'" - Ezekiel 1:26-28 & Ezekiel 2:1.*

This is a similar experience from the Old Testament.

Jesus Said, "Arise, And Do Not Be Afraid." Matthew 17:6-13

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. afraid- terrified, frightened (used in Matt. 17:7)
2. fear- used of a person in an exalted position, meaning "standing in awe." This is not simple fear, but reverence, whereby an individual recognizes the power and position of the individual revered and gives him proper respect. (used in Exodus 20:20)

Discussion Questions

1. a. Re-read last week's lesson, Matthew 16:28-17:5. Also, read Matthew 17:6. Why do you think the disciples were "afraid"? (Ex. 20:18-19)
b. Read Matthew 17:7. Jesus' response is, "... do not be afraid." What is the difference between "fearing" the Lord and being "afraid" of the Lord? (See vocabulary.)
c. Why does God allow us to "fear" Him? (Exodus 20:20-21)
d. What is the beginning of knowledge? (Prov. 1:7)
e. Why should we not be "afraid" of God? What does He say in Jeremiah 29:11?
f. How does Jesus feel about us? (John 15:9-17)
2. a. Read Matthew 17:8-10. Why were the disciples and the Jews expecting Elijah to return? (Mal. 4:5-6)
b. This prophecy isn't about Elijah himself returning, but of someone coming in the spirit and power of the prophet Elijah. Read Matthew 17:11-13. Who was the prophecy in Malachi 4:5-6 really talking about?

Today's Memory Verse

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

Mustard Seed Faith In An Awesome God.

"And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Then Jesus answered and said, 'O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.'"

- Matthew 17:14-21

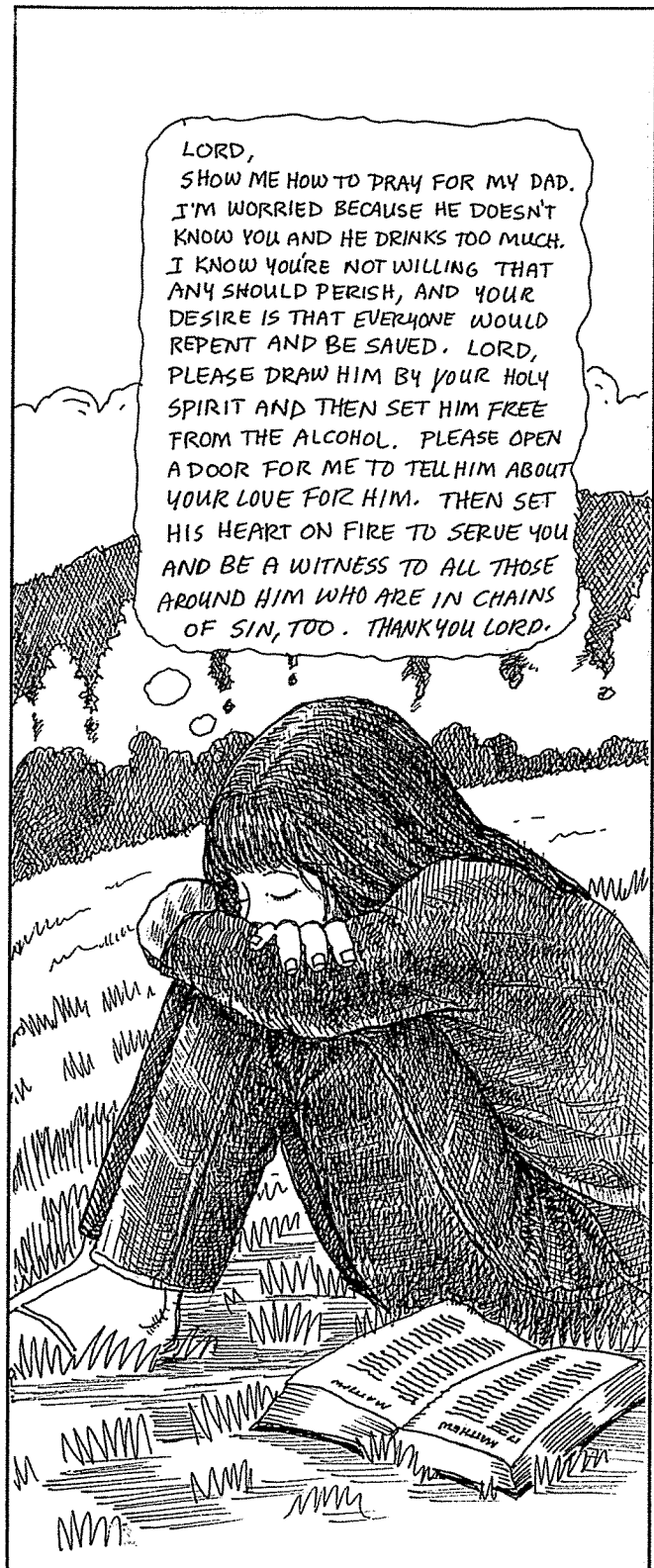


In order to move mountains, we must know the will of God. How can we know the will of God? By prayer and fasting! Prayer links us up to God, and fasting detaches us from our flesh. When we know the will of God, we have faith that His will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven! We pray according to HIS will.

Our faith must be in the Lord, knowing His will, and He will move the mountains! Many make the mistake of trying to drum up faith, like mind-power. They tend to put their faith in faith, rather than God. It must be His will rather than ours. True faith rests in the fact that God knows what is best, and those who have faith trust Him no matter what their circumstances!

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

- Hebrews 11:6



Mustard-Seed Faith
In An Awesome God!
Matthew 17:14-21

Vocabulary in context with Today's Lesson

1. abide- to remain in or with someone, to be and remain united in heart, mind and will
2. bear- have patience with someone in regard to their errors or weaknesses
3. epileptic- a person who has epilepsy, in this particular case (Matt. 17:15) it is because of the influence of demons or demon possession
4. faith- see Romans 4:13, 21-22 and Hebrews 11:1
5. faithless- not believing
6. fasting- abstaining from food; not eating
7. mustard seed- the mustard seed was the smallest seed known in Jesus' day, but would grow wild along roadsides and fields, reaching a height of about 15 feet
8. perverse- to turn away from the divine truth
9. rebuked- to order (someone) authoritatively to do something with the idea of strong disapproval or condemning for misconduct being implied
10. unbelief- lacking in confidence in Christ's power

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 17:14-20. How does Hebrews 11:1 define faith?
b. Where does faith come from? (Rom. 10:17; Rom. 12:3)
c. How can our faith become stronger? (Luke 17:5-10; James 2:14-26)
2. a. Read Matthew 17:21. Jesus gave us an example of how to pray. Read Matthew 6:5-15. How should we pray?
b. Whose will should we pray for? (Matt. 6:10)
c. What does Jesus say in John 15:7?
d. What does this mean?
e. When we fast, how should it be done? (Matt. 6:16-18)

Today's Memory Verse

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." II Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

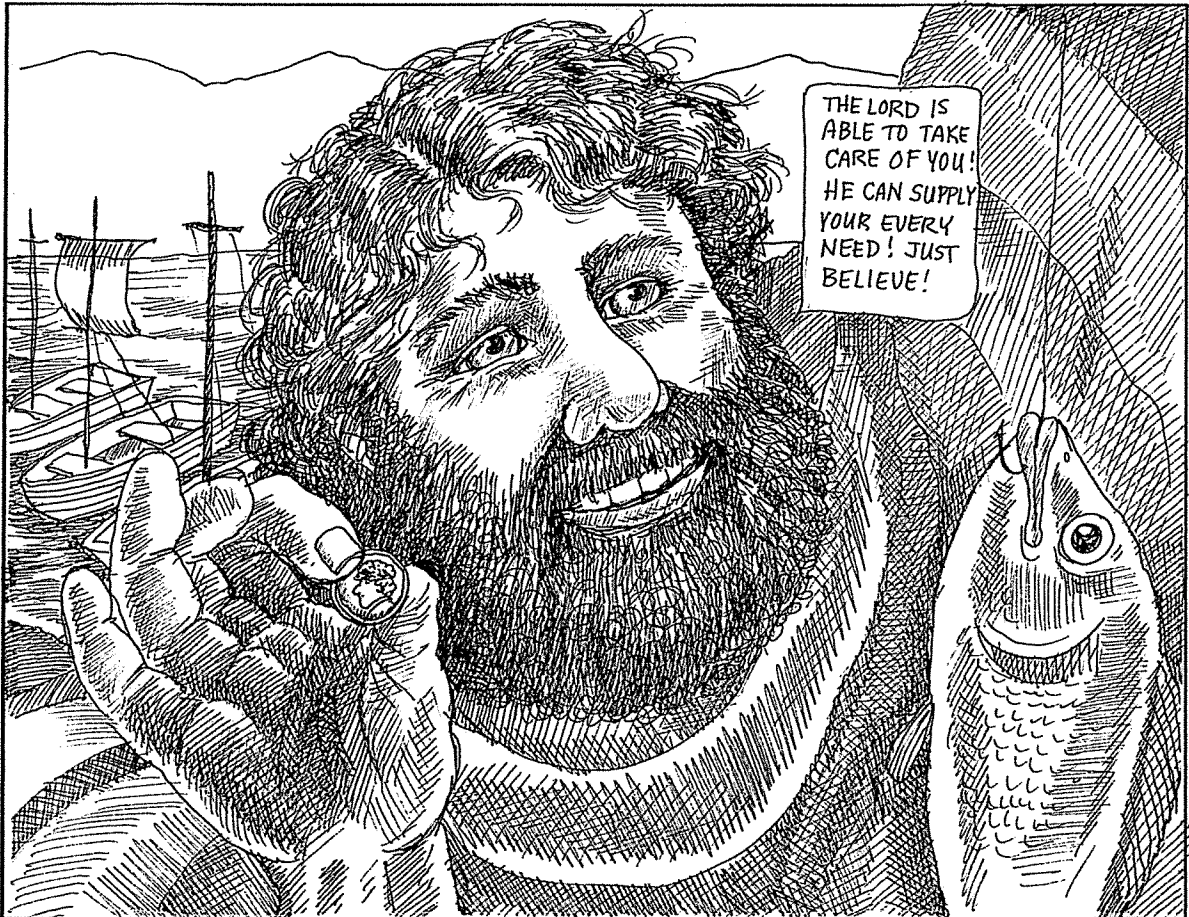
God Will Provide Our Every Need. Seek Him And His Kingdom First.

"Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.' And they were exceedingly sorrowful." - Matthew 17:22-23

Jesus predicted His death and resurrection, and He told them that He would rise again on the third day. They only heard the part about His death. Sorrow filled their hearts. Jesus had already warned the disciples to beware of men when He said, *'But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you on their synagogues.'* - Matthew 10:17. Jesus would soon be delivered up to councils, scourged in their synagogues, die, and rise again. All who follow Jesus will endure some of these things. Like Jesus, we too will be resurrected at the end of the age, or raptured.

"When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, 'Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?' He said, 'Yes.' And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, 'What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?' Peter said to Him, 'From strangers.' Jesus said to him, 'Then the sons are free. Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.'" - Matthew 17:24-27

Jesus paid the temple taxes so that no one might be offended. No one could call Him a tax-evader! When you're walking with Jesus, nothing is impossible! Jesus provides for all your needs. Just ask! *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."* - Philippians 4:19



Jesus said, *"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* - Matthew 6:31-34

**God Will Provide
Our Every Need
Matthew 17:22-27**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. anticipate- expect; to prevent by action in advance
2. betray- spoken of persons delivered over with evil intentions to the power of the authorities for trial and condemnation
3. customs- tax, toll, or tribute, particularly what is paid for public purposes for the maintenance of the state or in this case, the temple
4. temple tax- all Jewish males over 20 years old paid a yearly half-shekel tax (about two days wages) to support the temple (See Exodus 30:11-16)
5. piece of money- "stater," the exact temple tax for two
6. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 17:22-23. Why were the disciples "exceedingly sorrowful"?
b. What part of what Jesus said do you think the disciples did not pay attention to?
2. a. Read Matthew 17:24-26. Why was the temple tax taken? (See vocabulary.)
b. Who's temple is it? (I Kings 5:5)
c. Who is Jesus? (Matt. 3:16-17)
d. Should God's Son have to pay a tax to His own house?
3. a. Read Matthew 17:27. Why did Jesus pay the tax anyway?
b. Who provided money for the temple tax?
c. How much did He provide for? (See vocabulary.)

Today's Memory Verse

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ." Phillipians 4:19 (NKJV)



Who Is The Greatest In The Kingdom?

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.'" - Matthew 18:1-9

Children don't scrutinize and try to figure everything out in their minds. They simply believe and trust that Jesus is telling the truth. Many people are hindered from entering into heaven because they try to get there through their heads rather than their hearts. Don't let the so-called wisdom of men and scientific theories stop you from simple trust in Jesus Christ and the Word of God. We know that it's true. We don't need proof from the scholars, or scientists of our day.

Who Is The Greatest In The Kingdom?

Matthew 18:1-9

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. converted- to be changed or turned around, become another kind of person (See II Cor. 5:17.)
2. everlasting fire/ hell fire- hell; physical and spiritual punishment that lasts forever
3. humble- not thinking less of yourself, but not thinking of yourself at all (See Phil. 2:5-8.)
4. life- eternal life with God
5. little children- Jesus used a "little child" to symbolize the sincere, sensitive, and simple state of mind that a humble person is in
6. millstone- a large stone of a mill that was turned by a donkey to grind grain
7. offend- lead astray, lead into sin, throw off course
8. offense- a hidden trap; enticement to sin; off course
9. woe- denouncing misery and pitying it

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 18:1-4. What does it mean to be converted? (II Cor. 5:17)
b. Who is our greatest example of being humble? Why? (Phil. 2:5-8)
c. What does it mean to "become as little children"? (See Vocab.)
d. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (Matt. 18:4; Matt.19:30)
2. a. Read Matthew 18:5-6. What does Jesus say about what would be better than to cause one of His children to sin? (Matt.6)
b. Can you think of a time when someone was enticing you to sin? What happened?
c. How can you avoid causing someone else to sin? (Josh. 1:8; John 15:5)
3. a. Read Matthew 18:7. What does offense mean in this context? (See Vocab.)
b. What does the world do that is so bad? (Matt. 18:7; Matt. 24:4; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:8)
4. Read Matthew 18:8-9. We know that Jesus is not speaking literally when He talks of cutting off a hand or a foot or plucking an eye, but that He is giving us an example of how to deal with ourselves. We should be tough on ourselves when we are dealing with sin in our lives. We should not take it lightly. This is how we should deal with ourselves, but how should we deal with others? (Matt. 5:7; Matt. 5:43-45)

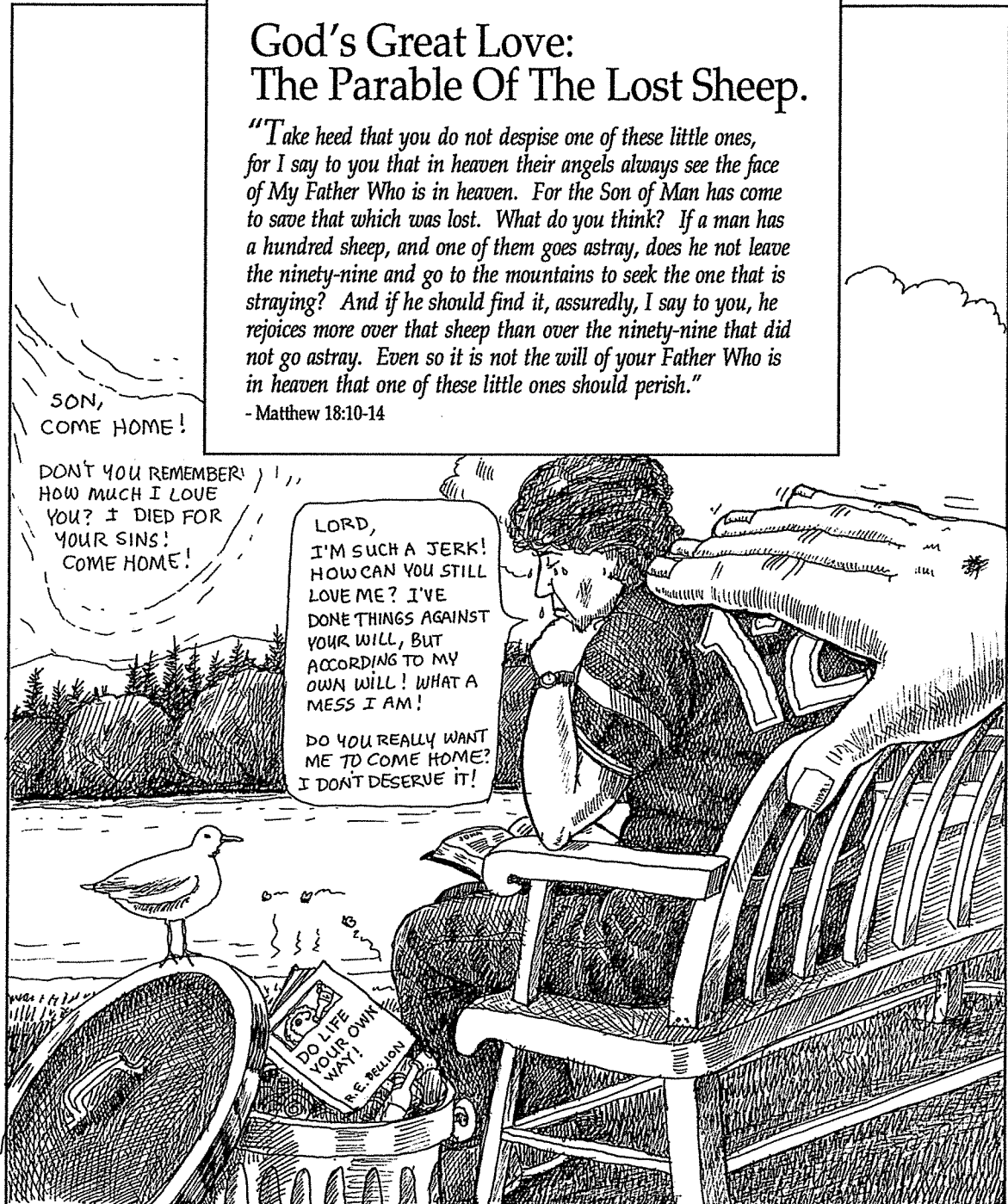
Today's Memory Verse

"Though the Lord is on high, yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar."
Psalm 138:6 (NKJV)

God's Great Love: The Parable Of The Lost Sheep.

"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father Who is in heaven. For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father Who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

- Matthew 18:10-14



"He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young." - Isaiah 40:11.

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own." - John 10:14

Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." - John 10:27-30

God loves you so much that if you stray, He'll come and get you! He has surrounded us with His angels. We are secure in the palm of His hand when we are born again. We are His sheep, and He is our Good Shepherd.

**God's Great Love:
The Parable Of The Lost Sheep
Matthew 18:10-14**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. despise- to think down upon
2. longsuffering- patient for a very long time
3. parable- a comparison in which the hearer has to catch the analogy in order to be instructed
4. perish- spoken of eternal death, the future punishment
5. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form
6. take heed- beware

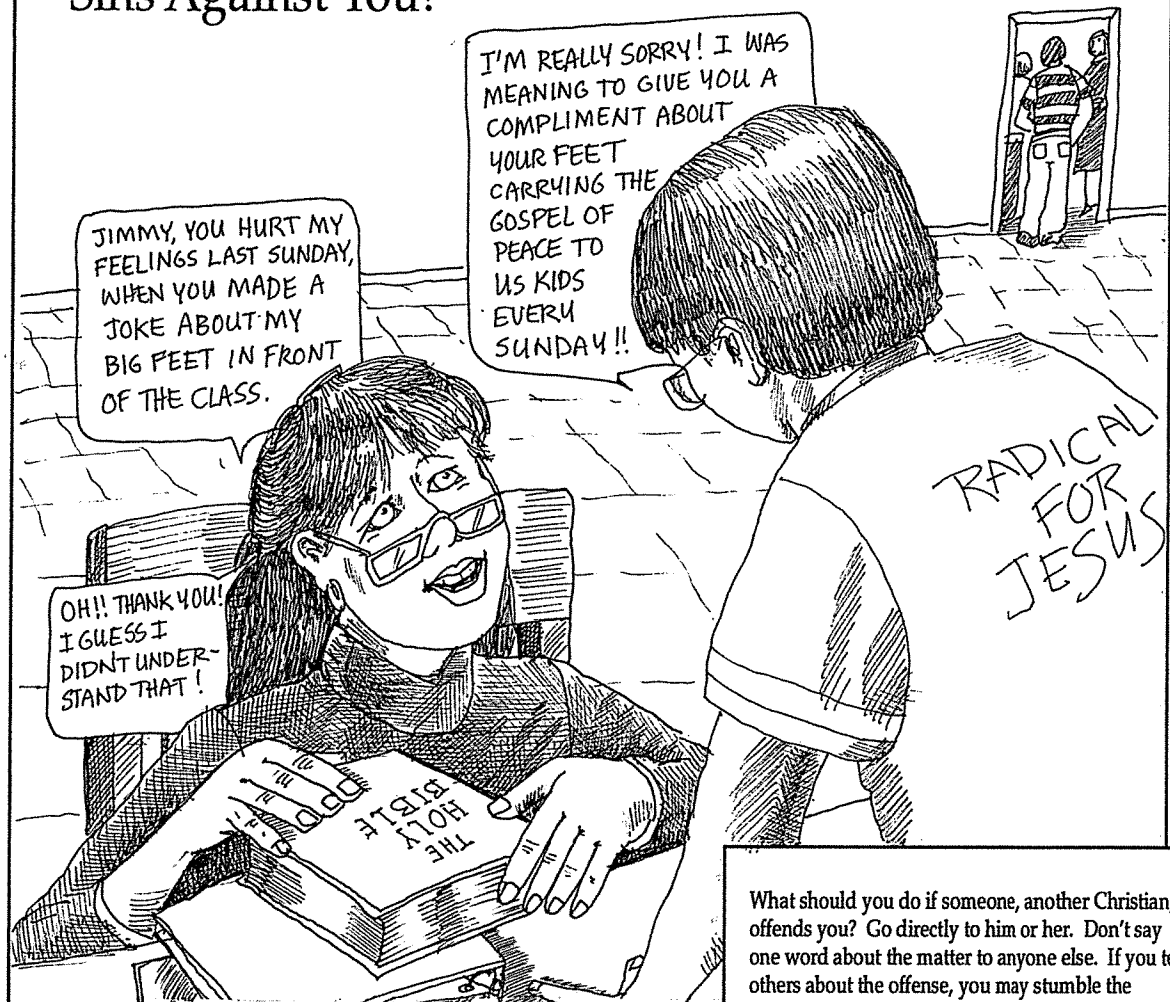
Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 18:10. What "little ones" is Jesus talking about? (Matt.18:6)
b. What is one of the job descriptions God gives to certain angels? (Ps. 91:11; Heb. 1:14)
c. What does God say of the angels? (Heb. 1:6)
d. What does God say about Jesus? (Heb. 1:8-14)
e. Who should we glorify, Jesus or the angels? Why?
2. Read Matthew 18:11. What did Jesus come to do? (John 3:16-17)
3. a. Read Matthew 18:12-13. In this parable who is the shepherd?
b. Who are the sheep?
4. Read Matthew 18:14. Why is God so patient with us? (II Pet. 3:9)

Today's Memory Verse

"He does not forget the cry of the humble." Psalm 9:12b (NKJV)

What If Your Brother Sins Against You?



"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that "by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:15-20

What do we do with unbelievers and tax collectors?
Love them and share Jesus!

What should you do if someone, another Christian, offends you? Go directly to him or her. Don't say one word about the matter to anyone else. If you tell others about the offense, you may stumble the hearers, cause troubles with many people and give the devil a foothold. Offenses will come because we make mistakes. We offend others and don't even know it. They offend us and don't know it! Sometimes we do it on purpose! It must be dealt with so we can continue sharing the Gospel of Peace and the Prince of Peace unhindered. A house divided cannot stand.

"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,' for we are members of one another. 'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."
- Ephesians 4:25-27

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;"- Hebrews 12:14-15

What If Your Brother Sins Against You?

Matthew 18:15-20

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. abide- to remain in or with someone, to be and remain united in heart, mind and will
2. brother- persons united by a common interest (Matt. 5:47), believers in Christ, Christians (Matt. 23:8; Rom. 1:13; I Thes. 1:4; Rev. 19:10)
3. established- confirmed
4. heathen- pagan; non-Christian
5. repent- to turn away from sin and turn back to God with a feeling of regret for past conduct
6. tax collector- these men were Jews hired by the oppressing Roman Empire to collect the various taxes from the Jewish people. They were allowed to gather more than the government required and pocket the excess amount. These people were hated and detested by their fellow countrymen and considered to be betrayers.
7. witness- one who has information or knowledge that can bring to light or confirm something

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 18:15. If your "brother" sins against you, what should you do? (Lev. 19:17; Prov. 25:9; Matt. 18:15)
b. If he hears you, what have you gained? (Matt. 18:15)
c. Read Matthew 18:16. If he will not hear you, what should you do? (Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16)
d. Read Matthew 18:17. What if he refuses to hear the church? (Matt. 18:17)
2. a. If your "brother" sins against you and repents, what should you do? (Luke 17:3)
b. What if he keeps sinning against you and repents each time, what should you do? (Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 17:4)
3. a. Read Matthew 18:17 again. Jesus said to treat someone who is non-repentant of their sin as a heathen or a tax collector. In other words, treat them as you would a non-Christian. How did Jesus treat the heathen and tax collectors? (Matt. 9:9-13; Luke 19:1-10)
b. Does this mean that we should treat someone who is non-repentant as we would a close friend or family? Why or why not? (II Cor. 6:14)
4. a. Read Matthew 18:18-20. We have been taught in the past about private prayer (Matt. 6:5-7). Now, this verse talks about when we pray with other Christians. What else does the Bible say about prayer? (I John 5:14-15; James 4:2-3)
b. How can we know that we are praying according to His will? (John 15:7)
c. If we are abiding in Jesus, what do you think we will desire to pray for? (Matt. 6:10)

Today's Memory Verse

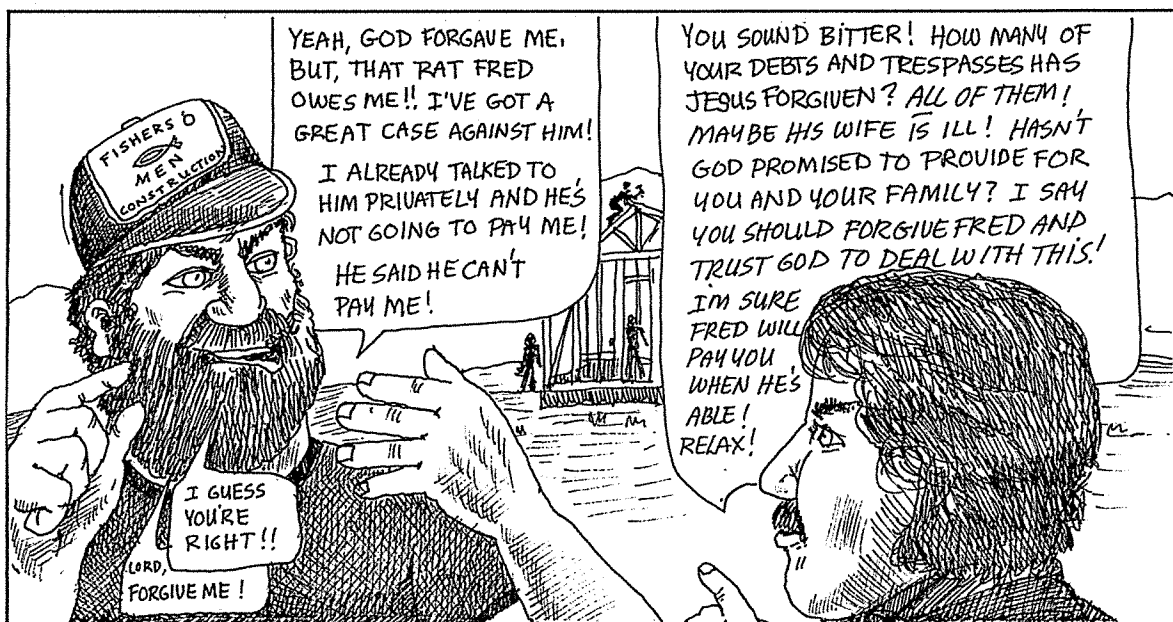
"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

What If Your Brother Sins Against You? The Parable of The Unforgiving Servant.

"Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the

throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

- Matthew 18:21-35



How many times have you sinned against the Lord? How many times has He forgiven you? "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust." - Psalm 103:11-14

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." - Colossians 3:12-15

It's far better to be humble and merciful when dealing with others! "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you." - Matthew 7:1-2

**What If Your Brother Sins Against You?
The Parable Of The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:21-35**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. denarii- plural for denarius; one denarius equaled about a day's wage
2. hypocrite- pretending to be what one is not. This term is what the Greeks would call an actor on stage who would wear a mask and impersonate a character. This is where we get our term "two-faced."
3. talents- one talent equaled about 600,000 denarii
4. trespass- offense; sin; unintentional error or willful transgression

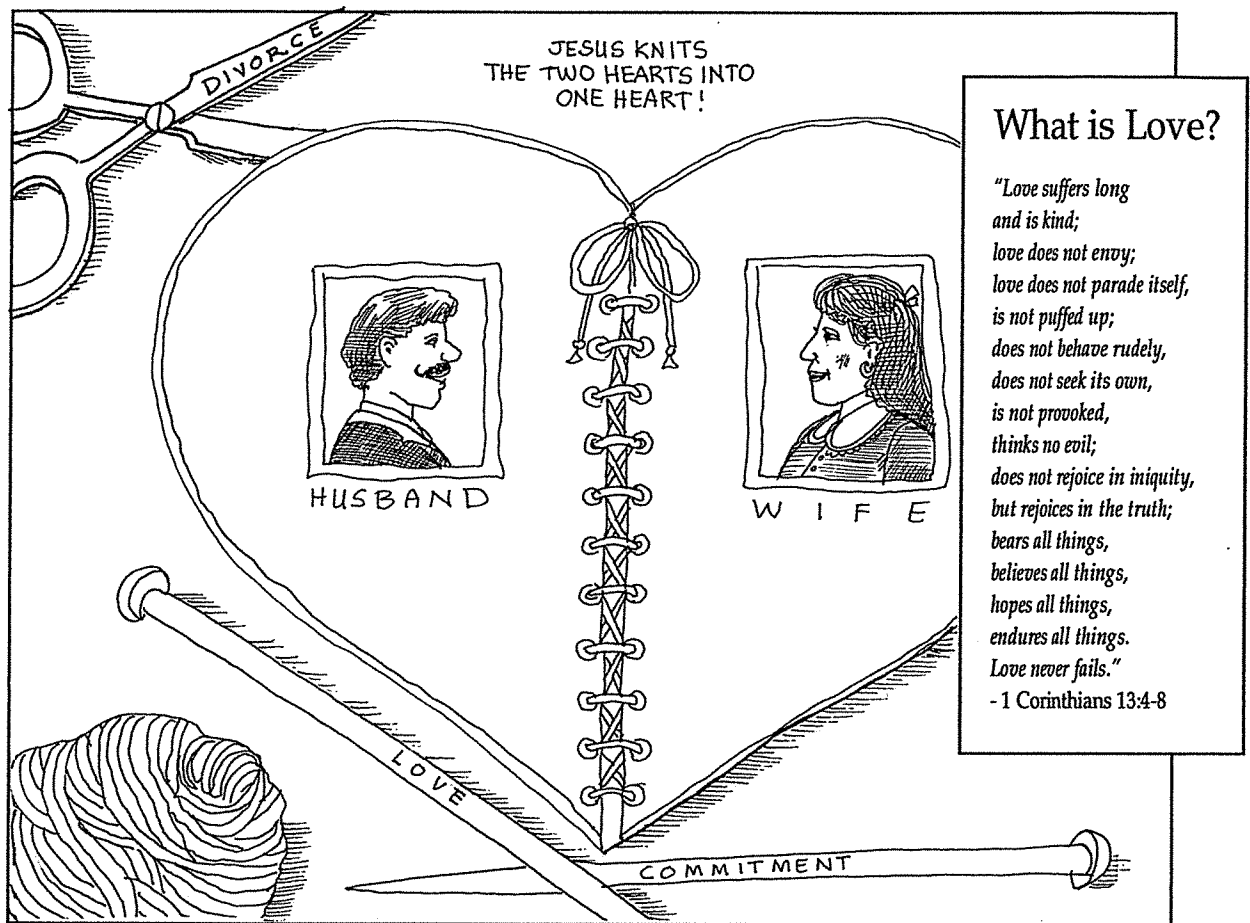
Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 18:21-22. If your "brother" sins against you and repents, what should you do? (Luke 17:3)
b. What if he keeps sinning against you and repents each time, what should you do? (Matt. 18:22; Luke 17:4)
c. Suppose there is someone who keeps stealing your stuff, keeps repenting and you keep forgiving him. Should you trust him with your most valuable possessions? Why or why not? (Matt. 10:16; Matt. 25:21)
2. a. Read Matt. 18:23-27. What did the servant do to obtain mercy from his master? (I John 1:9; Matt. 18:26)
b. How did the master respond? (Matt. 18:27)
c. Who do you think the master represents? Who do you think that the servant represents?
3. a. Read Matthew 18:28-35. How was this servant like a hypocrite?
b. Why is it so important that we forgive others? (Matt. 6:12; Matt. 6:14-15; Matt. 7:1-6; Eph. 4:32)
c. What happens to us when we don't forgive? (Heb. 12:14-15)

Today's Memory Verse

"Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." Luke 17:3-4 (NKJV)

Apply Within For Kids - Matthew 19:1-9



Jesus Teaches About Marriage & Divorce.

"Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there. The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?' And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.' They said to Him, 'Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?' (See Deut. 24:1-4.) He said to them, 'Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.'

And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." - Matthew 19:1-9

The Pharisees came to Jesus to ask a question that was designed to trap Him. Jesus explained that marriage was God's plan for man and woman from the beginning (Genesis 2:24). Divorce was never God's plan, yet He allowed it due to the hardness of our hearts after the fall of man. God allows divorce only for sexual immorality, yet divorce is not commanded. As with any other sin, confession and repentance is needed. Forgiveness and reconciliation are possible by the work of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes there are divorces. Can God forgive those who are involved? Can they ever minister in the church? Can they remarry? Yes. There are many consequences to divorce. It tears up families. What should anyone do when they sin? Confess that sin and repent from it, knowing that He is faithful to forgive us. Then we should continue to walk with Him from that time on. We all stumble and fail in many things. Love and grace needs to be given to those who fall. Jesus extended grace and mercy to the woman caught in the act of adultery. No one was able to cast the first stone at her. We are all sinners, yet Jesus doesn't want us to continue our sin.

Jesus Teaches About Marriage & Divorce

Matthew 19:1-9

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. adultery- willful sex outside of marriage
2. certificate of divorce- this is a reference to the document spoken about in Deut. 24:1-4 in which the dismissing husband was required to give to an innocently dismissed wife. This certificate was an equivalent to a certificate of innocence, because with it she was permitted to remarry. The husband would be the guilty party in this case. But, if the woman was guilty and had committed adultery, she would have been dismissed and never permitted to remarry. The penalty was to be stoned to death (Deut. 22:21), which was rarely practiced.
3. divorce- to put away a spouse, dismiss a spouse
4. 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
5. sexual immorality- sexual sin; fornication; adultery
6. testing- to try one's virtue with an ill intent

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 19:1-3. Why did the Pharisees come to Jesus? (Matt. 19:3)
b. What are the Pharisees doing that the Bible says not to do? (Matt. 4:7)
c. What question did the Pharisees bring to Jesus? (Matt. 19:3)
2. a. Read Matt. 19:4-6. What was Jesus' response to their question?
b. What does God think of divorce? (Mal. 2:16)
c. Does God forgive those who have divorced? (I John 1:9)
d. If your parents get divorced, does that mean nothing good will come of it? Why or why not? (Rom. 8:28)
e. If your parents are divorced or are getting a divorce, what should you do? (Eph. 4:32; Eph. 6:1-2; Phil. 4:6-7; Col. 3:20; I Thes. 4:9, 11)
f. What should you not do? (Matt. 7:1-2; Heb. 10:30)
3. a. Read Matthew 19:7-9. Why did God allow a certificate of divorce? (Matt. 19:8)
b. If your spouse commits adultery and repents, do you have to divorce them? What is another option? (Eph. 4:32)

Today's Memory Verse

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

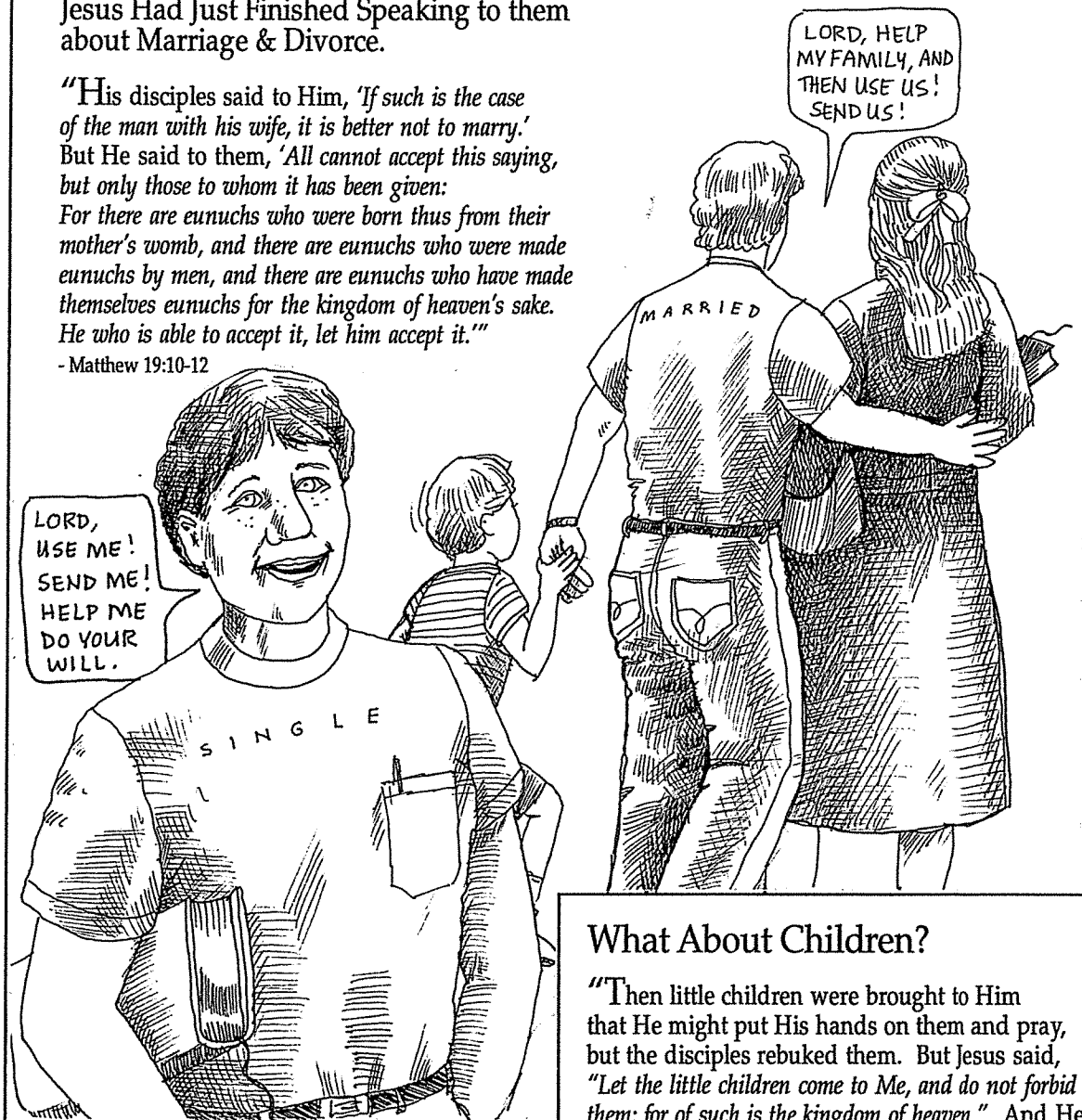
Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

God Uses Unmarried People As Well As Married People; Is Marriage For Everyone?

Jesus Had Just Finished Speaking to them about Marriage & Divorce.

"His disciples said to Him, 'If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.' But He said to them, 'All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.'"

- Matthew 19:10-12



What About Children?

"Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' And He laid His hands on them and departed from there."

- Matthew 19:13-15

Children suffer as a result of divorce. Jesus told us, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" - Matthew 18:6-7. "Whoever receives one little child like this in My Name receives Me." - Matthew 18:5.



Not everyone is called to marriage! There is nothing wrong with marriage, and there is nothing wrong with not being married if the Lord has called you to stay single.

1 Corinthians 7:25-40, addresses marriage. "But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife."

- 1 Corinthians 7:32-33

God Uses Unmarried People As Well As Married People Is Marriage For Everyone? Matthew 19:10-15

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. celibate- an unmarried person abstaining from sex
2. eunuch- any male deprived of the power to reproduce
3. rebuke- scold

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 19:10-12. Is everyone meant for marriage?

b. What are the three reasons that some are "eunuchs"?
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c. What is a good reason to be celibate and not marry? (Matt. 19:12; I Cor. 7:32-35)
2. a. Read Matthew 19:13-15. What did the disciples do wrong when the little children were brought to Jesus? (Matt. 19:13)

b. How do you think that Jesus feels about little children? Why do you think that?

c. If Jesus feels that way about little children, how should we treat little children, including our younger brother or sister? (Eph. 4:32)

Today's Memory Verse

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NKJV)

What Keeps You From Following Jesus?

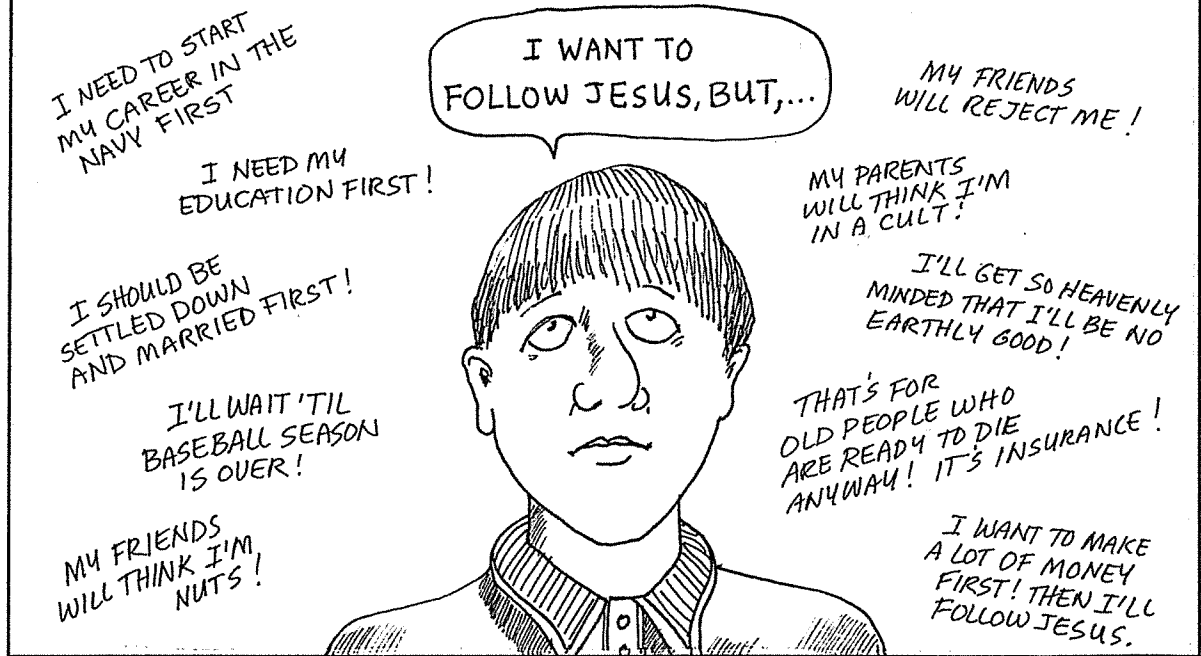
"Now behold, one came and said to Him, 'Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?' So He said to him, 'Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.' He said to Him, 'Which ones?' Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" - Matthew 19:16-19

Is there anything that you can do to have eternal life? No, except to admit you're a sinner who needs a Savior. No one is good enough to go to heaven, but there is One Who is good enough to pay for your and my sins; Jesus.

All the commandments Jesus listed have to do with our relationship to others. But before we can have a right relationship with others, we must have a right relationship with the Father, through Jesus Christ.

"The young man said to Him, 'All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?' Jesus said to him, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" -Matthew 19:20-26

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." - 1 Timothy 6:10



There is nothing wrong with having money, but if it becomes a stumbling-block to you so you cannot follow Jesus, then it is an idol. The Lord must come first in our lives and in our hearts, then our neighbors need to be our concern. Is there anything in your life that holds you back from following Jesus? Is there something or someone that you love more than Jesus? If so, confess it and repent of it. You can't take anything with you when you leave this earth except other people who are born again because you shared your stuff and ministered God's love to them. Money and stuff should be tools used for the kingdom of heaven. Stuff, money, relationships, hobbies, and other things should not hold us back from following Jesus. If those things become more important than the Lord, we are in idolatry.



Check your heart often, and follow Jesus the rest of your life!

What Keeps You From Following Jesus?

Matthew 19:16-26

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. bear false witness- to offer falsehood in evidence
2. good- upright, virtuous
3. lack- fail in something, come short of (Rom. 3:23)
4. mammon- the comprehensive word for all kinds of possessions, earnings, wealth, and gains; the god of materialism

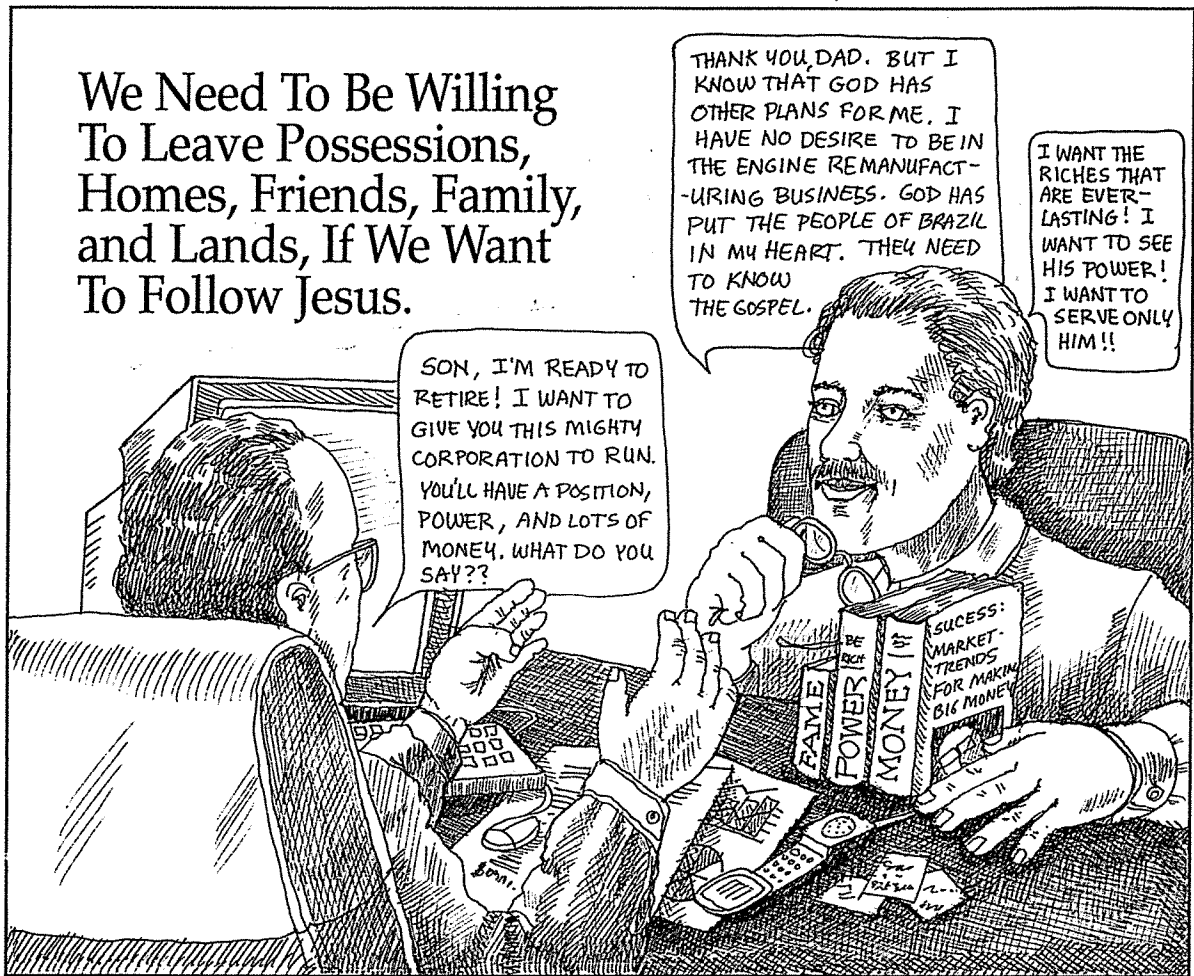
Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 19:16. What is meant by "good"? (See vocab.)
2. a. Read Matthew 19:17. What question did Jesus ask the rich young ruler?
b. Who is Jesus? (Matt. 16:13-17)
c. Who is "good"? (Ps. 14:3; Nahum 1:7)
d. Who is the only one able to keep all of the commandments? (Matt. 19:17)
3. Read Matthew 19:18-20. Do you think that this young ruler was really able to keep all of the commandments? Why or why not? (Rom. 3:10-12; Rom. 3:23)
4. a. Read Matthew 19:20-22. Where did Jesus tell him to invest? (Matt. 6:19-21)
b. Why was this young ruler sorrowful?
c. What choice did he have to make? (Matt. 6:24)
d. Having money in itself is not evil, but it is the _____ of money that is the root of all evil. (I Tim. 6:10)
5. a. This young ruler was trying to get to heaven by works, good deeds, and following the Law. Is that possible? Why or why not? (Eph. 2:8-9)
b. What is the only "work" that God requires of you? (John 6:29)

Today's Memory Verse

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

We Need To Be Willing To Leave Possessions, Homes, Friends, Family, and Lands, If We Want To Follow Jesus.



The Rich Man Held On To His Possessions Rather Than Forsaking Them To Follow Jesus. What Rewards Are There For Those Who Forsake All To Follow Jesus?

"Then Peter answered and said to Him, 'See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?' So Jesus said to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.'" - Matthew 19:27-30

The disciples will get a special place in the kingdom of heaven. They alone will sit on twelve thrones and judge the nation of Israel.

We will in this life, obtain a hundredfold for our sacrifice and willingness to obey and follow Jesus, plus inherit eternal life. Even though you love your home, parents, brothers, sisters, and homeland, we must obey the call of the Lord. God will supply all your needs if He has called you to do something for Him. Don't let friends or family keep you from following Jesus.

Remember that it costs to follow Jesus. In Matthew 8:18-22, Jesus told us that He didn't even have a place to lay his head. It's not a luxurious or comfortable experience to follow Jesus! Another of the disciples asked Jesus if he could first go and bury his father, and then he would follow Him. Jesus told him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." - Matthew 8:22. Spend your time on what counts most! Don't wait to follow Jesus!

Remember, there will be persecution even from your family! "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." - Matthew 10:35-39

**We Need To Be Willing To Leave Possessions,
Homes, Friends, Family And Lands, If We Want To Follow Jesus!
Matthew 19:27-30**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. hundredfold- a hundred times as much
2. regeneration- restoration, rebirth
3. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form
4. take his cross- one who carried his cross was condemned to die. To a disciple of Jesus Christ, this term means to die to one's own will and to allow God's will to become one's own will.

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 19:27. What did Peter and the other disciples leave behind to follow Jesus?

b. Is there anything that you would not be willing to give up to follow Jesus? If so, what is it? Why?
2. a. Read Matthew 19:28. What does it say Jesus' throne is made of?

b. What did Jesus say His twelve disciples would be doing in the regeneration?

c. What else does the Bible say will happen to them? (Rev. 21:14)
3. a. Read Matthew 19:29. What did Jesus promise to those who are willing to leave what is important behind to follow Him?

b. What does Jesus say about those who love something more than Him? (Matt. 10:37-38)
4. Read Matthew 19:30. How is God's way different than how the world does things? Who is first in the world? Who is least in the world? Who is first in the kingdom of heaven? Who is least in the kingdom of heaven?

Today's Memory Verse

"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."
Matthew 10:38 (NKJV)

The Parable of The Vineyard Workers; Many Who Are First Will Be Last, And The Last First.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early [6:00 AM] in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius [a normal daily wage] a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

And he went out about the third hour [9:00 AM] and saw others standing idle in the market place, and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went.

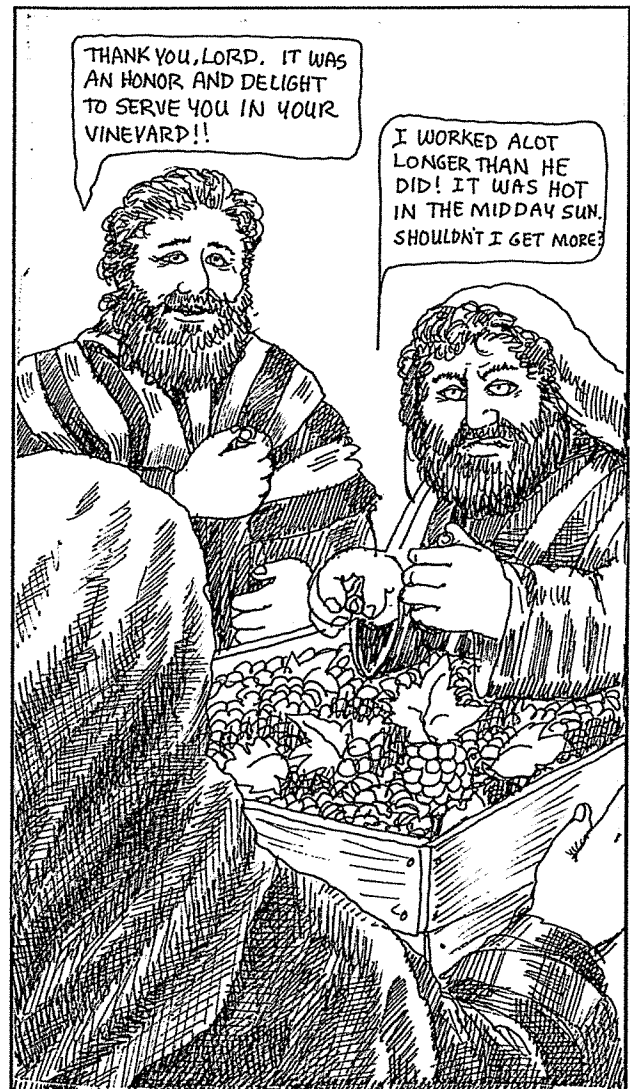
Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, [noon and 3:00 PM] and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour [5:00 PM] he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’

So when evening [6:00 PM] had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first.’ And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.

But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’

But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way, I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things?’

Or is your eye evil because I am good? So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.” -Matthew 20:1-16



Jesus tells us and His disciples about the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven is not like the kingdom of this world. It's very different. God is the landowner, and He hires us to work in His vineyard. Some people will work hard serving the Lord for many years, while others will serve the Lord only a few days or hours, yet God is fair. He will settle all the accounts. Once we are born again, God has work for us in His vineyard. Do what God has called you to do in His kingdom, and keep your eyes off of others. There is no room for envy and jealousy in the body of Christ! We are all members of His body who are saved by His work rather than our work. We serve Him because we love Him. At the end of this present age, He will reward us for our service in His kingdom.

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.” -1 Corinthians 12:12-18

**The Parable of the Vineyard Workers:
Many Who Are First Will Be Last, And The Last First
Matthew 20:1-16**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. denarius- about a normal day's wage
2. early- 6:00 a.m.
3. eleventh hour- 5:00 p.m.
4. evening- 6:00 p.m.
5. idle- not employed, not working
6. idle in the market- first-century model of an employment office
7. ninth hour- 3:00 p.m.
8. sixth hour- 12:00 noon
9. third hour- 9:00 a.m.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 20:1. What kingdom is Jesus talking about?
2. a. Read Matthew 20:2. How much did the landowner and the laborers agree upon?
b. Were the laborers paid by the hour or by the day?
3. Read Matthew 20:3-8. Who got paid first?
4. Read Matthew 20:9-12. Why did the laborers who started to work first think that they would be paid more than what they had agreed upon in the beginning?
5. a. Read Matthew 20:13-15. Why did the first laborers complain against the land owner?
b. Did they have the right to complain?
6. a. Read Matthew 20:16. How is the kingdom of heaven different from the world?
b. Who does Jesus call? (Matthew 11:28; John 3:16)
c. Who are chosen? (John 1:10-13; John 10:27-28)

Note: Some commentaries say that Israel was hired first, but they complained and murmured. The Church came along last and they will be first in the kingdom of heaven. As our previous lesson teaches the disciples will judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

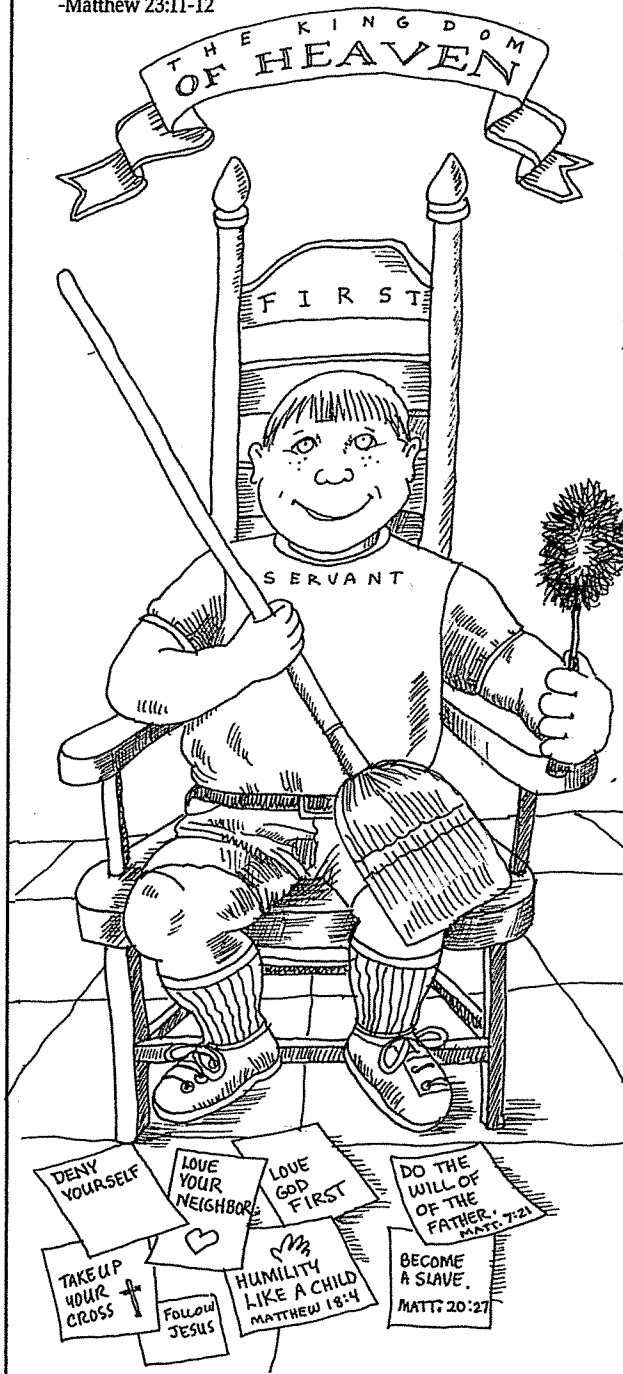
Today's Memory Verse

"And behold I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work." Revelation 22:12 (NKJV)

Seating Assignments In The Kingdom.

"He Who Is Greatest Among You Shall Be Your Servant. And Whoever Exalts Himself Will Be Humbled, and He Who Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted."

-Matthew 23:11-12



"Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.'"
- Matthew 20:17-19

"Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, 'What do you wish?' She said to Him, 'Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.' But Jesus answered and said, 'You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They said to Him, 'We are able.' So He said to them, 'You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.' And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"
- Matthew 20:20-28

Jesus had just taught the parable of the vineyard workers. He mentioned that the last shall be first and the first last. The kingdom does not work like this world. It is opposite! "Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them would be considered the greatest. And He said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One Who serves. But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as my Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'" - Luke 22:24-30

Seating Assignments In The Kingdom

Matthew 20:17-28

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

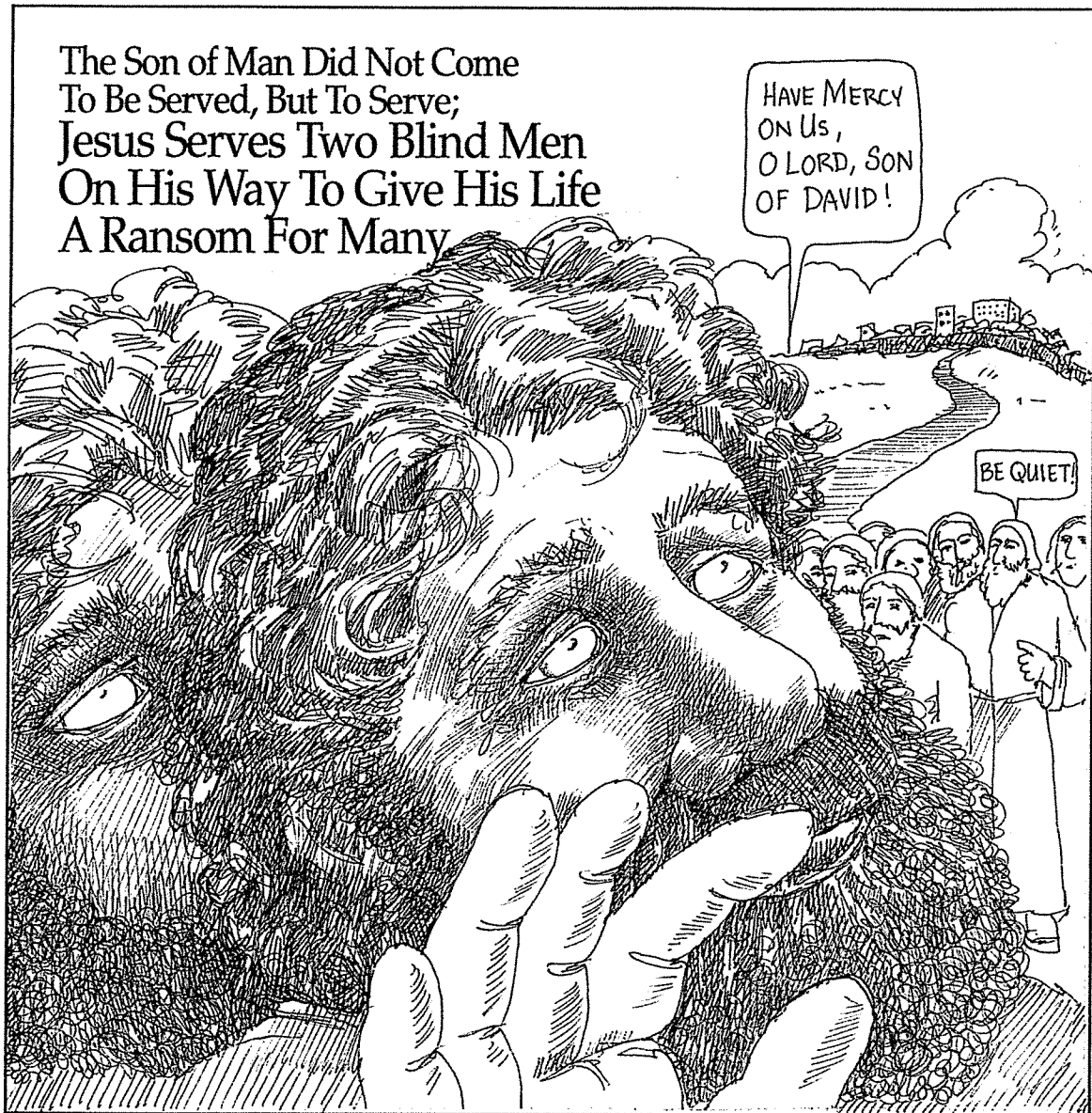
- baptize- wash; literally means to be overwhelmed
 - the baptism in Matthew 20:22- is speaking of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection
 - water baptism- is the outward symbol of and inward commitment that signifies our death to sin and being made alive to God in Christ (Matt. 28:19-20)
 - baptism of the Holy Spirit- gives us a changed heart (II Cor. 5:17; Titus 3:4-7)
- Boanerges (boh-uh-NUR-jeez)- "Sons of Thunder," the name Jesus gave the sons of Zebedee, that is James and John (Mark 3:17)
- 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
- cup- the cup that Jesus is talking about in Matthew 20:22 refers to His betrayal, suffering, mocking, scourging, being forsaken by God, and crucifixion (Read the rest of Matthew.)
- Gentiles- spoken of all who were not Israelites (Jews)
- Sanhedrin- the highest ruling body and court of justice among the Jewish people in the time of Jesus; Sanhedrin is implied in Bible passages that mention a meeting of various groups which made up the council: the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes
- scribes- ones who would explain the Law in schools and synagogues
- Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form

Discussion Questions

- Read Matthew 20:17-19. At least how many times has Jesus told of His future death and resurrection? (Matt. 12:39-40; Matt. 16:21; Matt. 17:9; Matt. 17:22-23; John 2:19-22)
 - Do you think that the disciples understood yet?
- Read Matthew 20:20-21. Who are Zebedee's sons and what was their previous occupation? (Matt. 4:21-22)
 - What name did Jesus give to these two men? What does it mean? (Mark 3:17)
- Read Matthew 20:22. What cup and baptism is Jesus talking about? (See vocabulary; Matt. 26:37-42; Luke 12:50; Luke 22:42-44.)
 - Do you think that James and John understood what cup and baptism Jesus was talking about when they answered, "We are able."?
- Read Matthew 20:23-24. Why do you think the rest of the disciples were displeased with James and John?
 - What did the disciples dispute about amongst themselves? (Mark 9:34; Luke 22:24)
- Read Matthew 20:25-28. What did Jesus say they needed to do to become great? (Luke 22:25-27)

Today's Memory Verse

"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God."
I Corinthians 4:1 (NKJV)



"Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, 'Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!' Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, 'Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!' So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' They said to Him, 'Lord, that our eyes may be opened.' So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him."

- Matthew 20:29-34

* Jesus could have said, "Not now! I am on the way to Jerusalem!" He could have been too busy, like we are sometimes! But He is compassionate. He came to serve, not to be served. Just as in the previous parable, these blind men were the least in the multitude who followed Him, yet they might be first in the kingdom to come!

* Notice that they had the faith to call out to Him for help, even when the multitude told them to be quiet! He stood still and called them. He calls each of us too! He knew what they needed, yet Jesus had them tell Him their need. Then He opened their eyes (spiritual eyes and physical eyes). Then they followed Him. He was going to the cross to suffer and die for our sins, the ultimate service!

Before we are born again we're lame, and not able to walk with the Lord. We're blind and unable to see spiritual things. Ask Jesus into your heart if you haven't already! Then follow Him the rest of your life.

**The Son of Man Did Not Come
To Be Served, But To Serve
Matthew 20:29-34**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. lord- master of something and having absolute authority over it; also used as an honorary title of address, especially to superiors, equivalent to "mister" or "sir" when addressing someone respectfully
2. Lord- Spoken of God as the Supreme Lord and Sovereign of the Universe. Jesus took on this title (Matt. 22:41-45) Himself. His purpose became clear after His resurrection. Thomas saw and touched the wounds of Jesus after His death and resurrection, and saw Jesus standing before him alive. Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Since, except in Acts 10:4 and Revelation 7:14, there has been no record of Lord (kurios) ever again used by believers in addressing anyone except God and the Lord Jesus.
3. mercy- to show compassion on a person in unhappy circumstances
4. ransom- a price paid for redeeming captives
5. Son of David- referring to the Messiah (Jesus) which was promised to come through the line of David (Jer. 23:5)
6. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 20:29-30. What did the two blind men ask for first?
b. What two names did they call Jesus?
c. What are a few of Jesus' other names? (Deut. 18:15,18; Ps. 2:2; Is. 7:14; Is. 9:6;Is. 47:4; Is. 59:20; Jer. 23:5; John 1:1; John 1:29; John 6:48; John 8:58; I Tim. 6:15; Heb. 4:14; I Pet. 2:6; I Pet. 5:4; Rev. 1:8; Rev. 22:16)
2. a. Read Matthew 20:31. Did the two blind men obey the crowd's warning? Why or why not?
b. What does God promise when we seek Him with all of our hearts? (Jer. 29:13)
3. Read Matthew 20:32. Once again, what example is Jesus giving? (Matt. 20:26-28)
4. a. Read Matthew 20:33-34. How did Jesus feel toward the two blind men that cried out to Him? (Matt. 20:34)
b. How did the multitude feel toward them? (Matt. 20:31)
c. What was the two men's response to Jesus' compassion? (Ps. 63:8; Matt. 20:34; Mark 8:34; John 8:12)

Today's Memory Verse

"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)