

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 15

Level 4

Harvey De Groot

Copyright © 2022 Harvey De Groot

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

In plain English, it means that you are free share (copy, distribute and transmit) this work under the following conditions:

- You must attribute the work to Harvey De Groot.
- You may not use this work for commercial purposes.
- You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work. Among other things, that means you must include all pages, including this one, in any copies you share.

If someone has shared a copy of this book with you and you would like to support this work, please consider purchasing your own copy at:

www.norlandegroot.com

While at the website you can purchase bound copies or download free PDFs of this and other volumes.

Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

Lesson 1

Christ the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 51

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Memory Verse: “So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:6-7)

Lesson Truth: Christ is born as Lord.

Lesson

The birth of Jesus takes on special significance when the angels told the shepherds that He was Christ the Lord. It was also the fulfillment of prophecy that the Lord should be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Here the Son of God took on human flesh when He was born to the virgin, Mary. A multitude of angels announced His arrival saying: “Glory to God in the Highest” (Luke 2:14). And shepherds went to adore Him.

The miracle of Christ’s birth is compounded when we know that he had to be born in Bethlehem, the city of David. God had delivered His people, Israel, through David and He promised that the Messiah would be born from his line in his city. This is amazing when we realize that Jesus’ parents, Mary and Joseph, lived in Nazareth not in Bethlehem. The story of Luke two tells how God directed the affairs of the huge Roman empire to make sure that His promise to David would be fulfilled.

The time was complete for the Son of God to be born and He had to be born in Bethlehem. In order for that to happen God planted in the heart of Caesar Augustus that all the people in his empire should be enrolled. This enrolling meant that each father had to go to the city of his family line to be registered. For that reason, Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to be enrolled because he was from the house and line of David. It was likely that he did not dare to leave Mary behind because she was close to the time of her delivery. So, they traveled together to Bethlehem. Little did Joseph and Mary know that God’s grace to His people was controlling the events in the history of the Roman Empire! God would fulfill His promise to David.

Luke then tells us that when they arrived in Bethlehem, the places of lodging were already filled. Joseph and Mary could not find any place to stay except in a stable with the animals. It almost seemed that God had forgotten the announcement He made to Mary since He did not provide a better place to stay. But the humiliation of Jesus birth was truly prophetic of the suffering that He came to endure for the sins of His people. As Joseph and Mary rested in the stable, the time came for Mary to deliver her baby. She brought forth her first-born Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Mary knew and believed what the angel had told her that she would bring forth a Son and that she would call His name Jesus. Now she held her child that she knew was the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world. At the same time, it was her flesh and blood. The whole event must have made Joseph and Mary speechless with joy that God would be so close to them. That is also the gift beyond measure for us that God was willing to be born of a woman to become our flesh. But it had to be, that the Son of God was born of the Holy Spirit and of flesh so that He could atone for the sins of His people.

It was not only Joseph and Mary who were filled with joy, but the angels in heaven also joined in a joyful song of praise. It happened when a number of shepherds were watching their flocks in the hill country of Bethlehem. First, an angel appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds. This caused the

Lesson 2

The Consolation of Israel

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 52

Scripture: Luke 2:21-39

Memory Verse: “And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Luke 2:25-26)

Lesson Truth: The Christ is revealed in the temple as the Consolation of Israel

Lesson

When Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary knew that He was the Savior, the Son of God. It is amazing that even though He was the Son of God, Christ Jesus was willing to submit to the requirements of the Law. As His parents fulfilled the requirements of the Law on His behalf He was made known to both Simeon and Anna at the temple. They were both devout believers who were waiting for the Messiah that they referred to as the Consolation of Israel.

At the time the Redeemer was born in Bethlehem most of the people in Israel were so preoccupied with themselves that they were not really looking for the Messiah. However, there were a few devout Jews who still looked with longing to His coming. God wanted these devout believers in Jerusalem to know that the Savior had indeed come. He used Joseph and Mary’s faithful obedience to the Law to announce the arrival of the Redeemer to these believers. Luke tells us that when Jesus was eight days old His parents had Him circumcised and gave Him the name Jesus. This was the name that Gabriel said He would be called. The sign of circumcision that Jesus received was the sign of putting sin to death. Jesus submitted to this sign to show that He bore the sins of His people. His circumcision was prophetic of the suffering that He would endure on the cross. Also, in faithfulness to the Law, Mary and Joseph were ready to present Him to the Lord at the temple when Mary’s days of purification were complete.

The presenting of a son to the Lord was a significant observation of the Law of Moses. God had intended that every firstborn son would serve as a priest. But the children of Israel had forfeited this honor of each family having a priest. Because of Israel’s sins at Mount Sinai, God chose to use the tribe of Levi as priests instead of each firstborn son. Still the firstborn son was regarded as holy to the Lord and the Law required that he had to be redeemed from this priestly service. It was this requirement of the Law that brought Joseph and Mary to the temple to present Jesus. He was also rejected for the priesthood and His parents had to bring turtledoves to redeem their firstborn Son. Still by His obedience, Christ the Redeemer obtained the right to offer Himself to God in place of the firstborn. His perfect sacrifice on the cross ended this Law of redeeming the oldest son. Now true believers could worship God in spirit and in truth rather than by observing laws. The Lord submitted to these laws in order to free His people from the service of the Law. By His sacrifice they are now able to serve God in spirit.

When Joseph and Mary arrived at the temple to do to Jesus according to the Law, they found Simeon. He was a godly, devout man, filled with the Holy Spirit, who was truly looking for the Consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit had made it known to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Christ. The Holy Spirit also revealed that Mary’s Son was the Christ. So Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God. He then prophesied that the light of salvation in Christ would not only be for the Jews but would also include the Gentiles. Now that Simeon had seen God’s salvation in Christ, he was no longer afraid to die. He then

prophesied that the Lord Jesus was destined to cause both the rising and the fall of many in Israel. Surely, He would be a blessing to many who believed, but He would also be the downfall of those who rejected Him. Because of the Christ, people would be filled with love and faith, or hate and unbelief.

Another person who was waiting for the Consolation of Israel was Anna. Anna was very old, but she still came to the temple every day. She served God with fasting and prayer night and day. Anna arrived at the temple just as Joseph and Mary came with infant Jesus. God in His grace also helped Anna recognize that Jesus was the Christ child. Anna believed that she had indeed seen the Consolation of Israel and she told all those who were looking for the Redeemer. Sadly, only a small circle of believers, including Simeon and Anna, knew that Jesus was the Christ. Later that small circle even faded away so that when Christ began His ministry, years later, He was unknown! How many today are looking for the Consolation of Israel? The world seems hostile to the message of salvation, yet God overcomes the world and reveals His salvation to all who believe. Do you see the Christ child as the Consolation of Israel?

Questions

1. What name was given to Mary's child at His circumcision? (Luke 2:21)
2. For what reason did Joseph and Mary, bring Jesus to the temple at Jerusalem? (Luke 2:22)
3. What was the devout man, Simeon, waiting for at the temple? (Luke 2:25)
4. Who revealed to Simeon that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ? (Luke 2:26)

Lesson 3

In His Father's Work

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 53

Scripture: Luke 2:40-52

Memory Verse: “Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” (Luke 2:46-47)

Lesson Truth: Christ is always busy in His Father's work.

Lesson

Even as a child Christ Jesus knew that He was the Redeemer. After Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to God at the temple they returned to live in Galilee. They settled in the town of Nazareth from which they had come. It was in Nazareth that Jesus grew and became strong in spirit. Luke tells us that He was filled with wisdom and that the grace of God was upon Him. At an early age Jesus became conscious of His calling to do His Father's work. Still, He willingly submitted to the authority of Joseph and Mary.

When Jesus was growing up in the town of Nazareth, we aren't sure of the things that he did. But we do know that the grace of God was upon Him. There is no doubt that the Redeemer grew up and lived as a child different than all other humans. He was a child that did not sin because all sin was an abomination to Him. The sins that Jesus saw in those around Him must have grieved Him very much. He knew from God's Spirit within Him that He was the Redeemer. His parents also shared with Him the promises of God's covenant with His people, and He listened to the reading of the Scriptures in the synagogue. Still as a son of Joseph and Mary it must have been difficult for Him to be aware of their sins when He was sinless. Gratefully, Jesus was filled with wisdom and God's grace was upon Him. With that grace He already took the yoke of our sins upon Himself. Even from early childhood Jesus suffered the consequences of our sins. By His life of total obedience, He freed us from the wrath of God against sin.

One of the first glimpses that the Bible gives us that Jesus was conscious of His calling was when He went with His parents to the Passover Feast. He no doubt went with His parents to the feast before, but when He became twelve years old, He was commanded by the Law to attend. Because the Law required Him to be at the Passover Feast it seems that his parents gave Him some freedom to move about. Jesus was willing to submit to the Law in order to free His people from the bondage of the Law. He most likely followed the whole priestly service at the temple with real interest. All the while, He knew that He would fulfill this service as the true High Priest. He was the Lamb that would be slain to atone for the sins of His people. Jesus indicated that He was conscious of His calling when the Passover Feast ended.

Following the feast, Jesus' parents began the journey home. They joined the company of those traveling to Galilee. They thought that Jesus was in the company somewhere and they traveled a whole day before they went to look for Him. Imagine their anxiety when they could not find Him with the others!

Immediately, Joseph and Mary left the group of travelers and returned to Jerusalem. As they returned, they inquired about Him along the way, but no one had seen Him. Their hearts must have been filled with worry in the three days it took before they found Him. Then incredibly they found Him in the temple discussing the Scriptures with the teachers of the Law. Jesus not only listened to these teachers, but He also asked them questions. Everyone who heard the things He said were amazed at His understanding and the answers He gave.

5. What did Jesus' parents do when they did not find Him in the company of travelers? (Luke 2:45)

6. How long did it take Joseph and Mary to find Jesus when they returned to Jerusalem? (Luke 2:46)

7. What did Jesus' mother say to Him when they found Him? (Luke 2:48b)

8. What was Jesus answer to His mother's question? (Luke 2:49)

Lesson 4

Exodus

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 54

Scripture: Luke 3:1-20

Memory Verse: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” (Luke 3:4b-6)

Lesson Truth: John the Baptist brings the people to meet the Lord.

Lesson

John the Baptist was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way for the Lord. John led the people from the bondage of self-righteousness just as Moses led the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt. John’s message of repentance was truly an exodus from the sin of self-seeking, to the freedom of life in the grace of God. Luke made it clear that the Lord, announced by John, would cause all flesh to see the salvation of God. The Mighty One would deliver believers from their sins.

The child that had been born to Zacharias and Elizabeth in their old age was now thirty years old. Their son, named John, was living in the wilderness at this time in the region of the Jordan River. Out in the wilderness John heard the call of God to begin his ministry and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Luke pointed out that John was the voice in the wilderness that the prophet Isaiah said would prepare the way of the Lord. He was the one that would herald the coming of the King of Kings. The preparation for this King included filling the valleys and leveling the mountains. Every crooked road had to be made straight and every rough place had to be made smooth. Isaiah said that this King would cause the glory of the Lord to be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

But the political situation was not favorable to John’s call for repentance. Anti-covenant rulers such as Pontius Pilate and Herod the tetrarch governed Israel. Even worse the high priests, Caiaphas and Annas, hated the good news that God’s grace could redeem His people. They thought that the only way to be righteous was to keep the rules they made. Still, it was in this unfavorable climate that God called John to preach the baptism of repentance. His preaching of repentance would truly prepare the way for the King who would bring His people into His kingdom by grace. It was right for John to urge people to remove the sins in their lives that would hinder the coming of the Lord in their lives. The Lord’s coming would bring salvation by grace to all flesh, old and young, slave and free, Jew and Gentile.

Many people came to the Jordan River to see John and to hear his message. John knew that he had to destroy their false confidence in keeping the Law. He sternly asked who had warned them to flee from the wrath to come. John told them to show the fruit of repentance and not to think that they were saved because Abraham was their father. He said that God could raise up children to Abraham from the stones near the Jordan. The sad thing was that people came to be baptized by John because they thought baptism was like a lucky charm that could bring salvation. That is why John urged the people to show true sorrow for their sins and repent. Because the people were so accustomed to keeping laws, they asked John just what they had to do. They thought he might ask them to live a life of isolation like John did.

But John did not ask them to withdraw from life in their communities. He told them that in their everyday life they had to learn to care for others. If someone has two coats let him give one to a person who has none. The

tax collectors were not told to quit their work, but they were told to be honest and collect only what was due. He did not tell the soldiers to leave the military, but to be good soldiers, content with their wages, who did not falsely accuse anyone. John only urged the people to leave their sinful ways.

Because of John's clear message, the people began to ask whether he might be the promised Messiah. But John quickly discouraged such speculation. He told them that he came baptizing with water, which was only a sign of God's grace in the covenant. But the One who would come after him was the Messiah. The Messiah would baptize the people with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He would separate the people as the farmer separates the wheat from the chaff. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus as the Messiah will be gathered into His barns, but those who do not believe will be destroyed with a fire that never dies. John even preached his message of repentance to Herod and rebuked him for his sins with Philip's wife. But Herod was filled with hatred and had John put in prison. This ended John's active ministry, but he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness. He did bring the people to meet the Lord!

Questions

1. Who were the high priests when the word of God came to John in the wilderness? (Luke 3:2)
2. Into what region did John go to preach the baptism of repentance? (Luke 3:3)
3. The book of what prophet told about the voice of one crying in the wilderness? (Luke 3:4)
4. What would happen to every valley and mountain to prepare the way for the Lord? (Luke 3:5)

Lesson 5

The Lord's Anointed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 55

Scripture: Luke 3:21–4:30

Memory Verse: “When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him and a voice came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’” (Luke 3:21-22)

Lesson Truth: The Christ reveals Himself as the Lord's Anointed.

Lesson

Christ Jesus was anointed to begin His public ministry when John baptized Him. Jesus joined the crowds of people who went to John the Baptist at the Jordan River to be baptized. Jesus joined the people in baptism to show that He was the One who carried their sins. In that way He functioned as the head of His people. It was the occasion of His baptism that Jesus chose to reveal Himself as the Redeemer.

God chose the occasion of Jesus' baptism and His prayer to send the Holy Spirit to anoint Him for His office as Redeemer. In Israel, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil to signify that they were called to fulfill an office. The anointing of Israel's officers indicated that the Holy Spirit would qualify them for their office. The Lord Jesus also received this anointing as the Holy Spirit descended from heaven. As Jesus prayed the heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit appeared as dove to rest on Him. Then the Father's voice from heaven spoke, saying: “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). This was the official anointing that Jesus received to do the work of redemption. He was the Son through whom God would show His love. The Holy Spirit was not only present at the Lord's baptism, but He was also present as Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Three times Satan tempted Jesus to relinquish His trust in God. Each time the Holy Spirit strengthened Him to defeat the tempter with the Word of God. Then Jesus was led by the power of the Spirit to Galilee.

When Jesus arrived in Galilee, the news spread quickly. They heard about the things He said as He taught in their synagogues. He did not teach as the scribes did by telling the people what they should do to save themselves. Instead, He pointed out that God's grace could work in their hearts and lives. In time, Jesus came to Nazareth, the town in which He had grown up. Here there was a real danger that people would praise Him for His teaching and His miracles and still not believe that He was the Redeemer. As was His custom, Jesus went into the synagogue at Nazareth on the Sabbath Day. Would they understand that He was anointed by the Holy Spirit to do the work of redemption? It soon became evident that they did not understand.

It happened when Jesus was at the synagogue in Nazareth. They handed Him the book of the prophet Isaiah for Him to read. Jesus opened the book of Isaiah to the words that said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” (Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus then told them that He was the fulfillment of this prophecy from Isaiah. First they marveled at such amazing words from Joseph and Mary's son. But their amazement turned to anger when Jesus confronted them with their unbelief. He suggested that they might want to quote the proverb about a physician healing himself. Why didn't Jesus do the miracles in Nazareth that He did in Capernaum?

Lesson 6

Fisher of Men

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 56

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Memory Verse: “When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken.” (Luke 5:8-9)

Lesson Truth: Christ reveals Himself as the Fisher of Men.

Lesson

When S. G. De Graaf wrote his lessons for Sunday School teachers, he entitled his books *Promise and Deliverance*. In his books, he showed how God’s Word is an account of God’s promises to His covenant people and the deliverance He provides in Christ Jesus. The lesson we consider today portrays Jesus’ deliverance as He reached out in grace as a Fisher Of Men.

After Jesus left Nazareth, where the people intended to harm Him by pushing Him over a cliff, He went to the Sea of Galilee. In that region the people crowded around Him to hear the word of God. In order to escape the pressure of the crowds Jesus looked for a place where He could teach without the crowds pressing Him. He noticed two boats anchored along the water and the fishermen washing their nets. The Lord got into one of the boats that belonged to Simon and asked him to move out from shore just a little way. From this boat, a short distance from shore, Jesus taught the people. He no doubt taught as He always did, about the Kingdom of God’s grace. Jesus often spoke about farmers in the field or shepherds with sheep. He sometimes talked about a household or a catch of fish. By His illustrations, Jesus indicated that everything in the world is evidence of God’s grace. If we are not able to see Kingdom of God in our everyday life, we will likely miss it. If we do see the Kingdom of God each day, we can testify that it is a miracle of God’s grace. Jesus used illustrations from everyday life to catch men for His Kingdom just as a fisherman catches fish. In this way He was the eternal Fisher of Men.

When Jesus had finished teaching the people for this particular day, He asked Simon to row the boat out to deep water. He then told Simon to let down his nets to catch some fish. Simon reminded the Lord that he and his crew had fished all night and hadn’t caught a thing. Yet he was not ready to ignore the Lord’s request. Simon had met Jesus before, and he knew that His grace controlled all things. So, he answered Jesus that because he knew of Christ’s grace and power he would do as the Lord requested. He let down his nets to try again to catch fish. This was the Lord’s way of recruiting Simon to do His work as a disciple. Jesus wanted Simon to trust His word of grace without question.

As Simon let down his nets in response to the Lord’s request, he became aware of a miracle. His nets immediately filled with fish. There were so many fish that his nets began to break. Then Simon and his crew waved to the fishermen in the other boat to come and help them. Imagine the excitement of these fishermen as they filled both boats with fish so full that the boats nearly sank. This happened just a short time after they had fished all night without success. This spectacular display of the Lord’s grace in nature made Simon Peter fall on his knees before the Lord. He exclaimed: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man O Lord!” Simon was filled with wonder at this display of the Lord’s grace. The Lord’s grace was so evident to Peter that he confessed to being a sinful man. Such a confession of sin should also be our response to the power of the Lord’s grace. Simon and all who were with him were astonished at such a catch of fish.

Jesus then addressed Simon in particular but also included James and John the sons of Zebedee. He told them not to be afraid because they had seen this amazing display of the Lord's grace in nature. It was this display of grace that Jesus used to call these men to be His disciples. He told them that from that time on they would be fishers of men. Simon and Andrew along with James and John would always remember this huge catch of fish when they urged men to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. In obedience to the Lord's call, they left their fishing boats and became fishers of men.

Questions

1. Why did the multitudes press around Jesus? (Luke 5:1)
2. What were the fishermen of the two boats standing by the lake doing? (Luke 5:2)
3. Into whose boat did the Lord go to teach the people? (Luke 5:3)
4. What did Jesus ask Simon to do after He finished teaching the people? (Luke 5:4)
5. What did Simon tell the Lord about their fishing experience of the previous night? (Luke 5:5)

6. What was the result when Simon obeyed the Lord and let down his nets? (Luke 5:6)

7. What did Simon Peter exclaim as he fell at Jesus' knees? (Luke 5:8)

8. What did Jesus tell these fishermen they would do from then on? (Luke 5:10)

Lesson 7

The Apostle of Our Confession

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 57

Scripture: Luke 6:12-49

Memory Verse: “Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)

Lesson Truth: The Apostle of our confession is faithful over His whole house.

Lesson

Christ Jesus is the Apostle of our confession who is forever faithful to believers of all ages. He was faithful in appointing twelve of His disciples to the office of apostle. Even though one of the twelve was a traitor, the others carried out their apostolic work. Christ Jesus was faithful in healing the sick and in teaching the multitudes the avenue of blessing in His Kingdom.

As Jesus continued preaching and teaching in Galilee, crowds surrounded Him every day. People came from many areas to hear the words of the Master and to look for healing from diseases. One day, Jesus slipped away from the crowd and went by Himself to the mountain to pray. On this occasion He spent all night in prayer, remaining one with the Father. The Lord’s communion with the Father throughout this particular night was to guide Him to choose twelve men to be His apostles. Just as Christ Jesus was the Father’s ambassador in the world, so the apostles would be the Lord’s ambassadors in the world. They would be called for a special task. The Lord Jesus would charge them not only to preach and teach His Word, but also to record it. In this way the Word of the Lord Jesus would be preserved for all time. After the apostles who were appointed by Jesus died, others would be called to continue their task. Even today God calls office-bearers to preach and teach the good news of salvation. We should never forget that the Lord Jesus spent all night praying for the twelve apostles and for the work they were called to do. He prayed not only for the twelve, but also for all who would be called to serve as office-bearers in the future. The Lord knew that sin would accompany the work of office-bearers throughout the ages. Therefore, He prayed for forgiveness for sins committed in these offices.

The next morning Jesus appointed twelve men who were chosen according to the will of the Father. These men would be the Lord’s messengers to carry His Word to the ends of the earth. It is striking that the twelve chosen to be apostles were very ordinary men. There were fishermen and tax officials as well as a national zealot. But the Lord Jesus could use them all if they believed His Word of grace. These ordinary men were called to live by faith in the Word of God. Sadly, one of them appeared to accept this call, but he did not believe the Lord’s Word of grace. In his unbelief he even betrayed the Lord into the hands of His enemies. Such unbelief should be a warning that it is only grace that would qualify anyone to serve as an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ.

After Jesus had named His apostles, He went with them to minister to the multitude of people. He showed the full measure of God’s mercy by proclaiming the Word of God’s grace. He healed people of their diseases and freed those who were tormented with unclean spirits. The Lord Jesus gave the people a glimpse of the glory and freedom that would belong to those who believe in the power of God’s grace. For those who believe all sickness and the brokenness of sin will one day be removed!

Jesus then clearly taught His disciples that if they believed in Him, they would be oppressed and persecuted in the world. He encouraged them by telling them they were blessed if they were poor, because theirs is the Kingdom of God. They were blessed if they were hungry now, because they would be filled. They were blessed if they weep, for the time would come when they laugh. Imagine, the Lord's people are even blessed if the world hates them and they are excluded and reviled, because their reward is in heaven.

However, Jesus also warned those who are rich and self-seeking, because they have received their consolation. They are the ones who will weep and go hungry because they lived only for themselves. The Lord Jesus referred to them as blind leaders of the blind. As the Apostle of our Confession, Christ urged His people to do good to their enemies, to give to anyone who asks, and to be merciful as the Father in heaven is merciful. Only those who hear the teachings of Jesus and build their lives on the Word of God's grace are secure. They are like a man who built his house on a rock, and nothing can prevail against it!

Questions

1. How long did Jesus continue in prayer to God when He went up to the mountain? (Luke 6:12)
2. How many of His disciples did Jesus choose to be apostles? (Luke 6:13)
3. Why did the multitudes seek to touch Jesus? (Luke 6:19)
4. According to Jesus' teaching why are you blessed if you are poor? (Luke 6:20)

5. To those who hear, what did Jesus say to about their enemies and those who hate them? (Luke 6:27)

6. According to Jesus' teaching how should we treat others? (Luke 6:31)

7. How can we determine if a person belongs to the Lord? (Luke 6:43-44)

8. What are those like who come to Jesus and listen to His teaching? (Luke 6:48)

Lesson 8

He Has Borne Our Grievs

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 58

Scripture: Luke 7:11-17

Memory Verse: “So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God saying, ‘A great prophet has risen among us.’ And, ‘God has visited His people.’” (Luke 7:15-16)

Lesson Truth: Christ bears our griefs.

Lesson

We continue to see the authority of Christ’s ministry as He traveled through Galilee. When He reached the village of Nain, He found a group of mourners carrying the body of the only son of a widowed mother. The widowed mother was filled with grief, as this was her only son and her only means of support. The Lord Jesus was moved with compassion at this scene and was willing to take away the widow’s grief. Once again, the people knew that God had visited His people.

As Jesus traveled through Galilee, He was aware that the people were captives of sin and its consequences. This was evident as He came across a funeral procession in the village of Nain in northern Galilee. In this procession was the grieving mother, who was a widow, along with a large crowd of mourners. The people from Nain had joined this grieving mother because of her exceptional loss. She had not only lost a son, but she had also lost her means of survival. It was a consolation for this widowed mother to have the people of the village join her as she mourned the loss of her son. But she was soon to learn that the Lord of heaven could free her from the consequences of sin and her grief.

It was no doubt a comfort to this widowed mother to have the people of the village show their sympathy. But they could not fully enter her sorrow or take it away. Only the Lord Jesus is able to carry our sins and remove our sorrows. As Jesus saw the mourners with this widowed mother, He had compassion for her. He told her not to weep. He knew that He had the power and authority to remove this widow’s sins and the death of her son, which was the result of sin. That is why Jesus could say with confidence that she need not weep. He is able to bear the grief of His people and to remove the consequences of their sin.

But Jesus did more than console this widowed mother. He walked up to the open coffin in which the mourners were carrying this young man and touched it. When He touched the coffin those who were carrying it stopped. Then Jesus spoke and said: “Young man, I say to you, arise” (Luke 7:14). At Jesus’ words the young man who had been dead sat up and began to speak. The Lord Jesus then presented him to his mother. The Lord had the authority to call this young man from the dead because He is the One who would atone for the sins of His people. He is the Redeemer who has the power over sin and death and hell. The raising of this young man was only a temporary gift of additional life. Those who believe that the Lord Jesus is the Redeemer will receive the gift of eternal life. The ties that bind us together in life are no longer broken by death for those who know the Christ Jesus is Lord and Redeemer.

When the crowd of people saw the young man arise from the dead and begin to speak, they were filled with fear. But this was not a cowering fear, it was rather a fear filled with awe as they glorified God. They exclaimed, “A great prophet has risen amongst us” (Luke 7:16). God had worked His grace in these people so that they

saw this miracle as a manifestation of His covenant. They also exclaimed, “God has visited His people” (Luke 7:16). The people from Nain had seen the glory of God’s grace, which conquered sin and death.

Because God revealed Himself to us in His Word with accounts such as the raising of the widow’s son, we know that He has the power and authority over all things. He can proclaim liberty to those who are captive to sin and its consequences. He revealed to His people that He sends His grace into their hearts and has given them His Holy Spirit. As Isaiah prophesied, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4). Therefore, we should heed Isaiah’s words t: “Seek the Lord while He may be found,” and “Call on Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6).

Questions

1. To what city was Jesus going along with many of His disciples? (Luke 7:11)
2. What sad event did Jesus encounter as He neared the gate of Nain? (Luke 7:12)
3. What unusual thing did Jesus say to the grieving widow? (Luke 7:13)
4. What did those who carried the coffin do when Jesus touched it? (Luke 7:14)
5. What astounding command did Jesus give to the man in the coffin? (Luke 7:14)

6. What was the response to Jesus' command? (Luke 7:15)

7. What emotion came upon the people when they saw the young man rise from the dead? (Luke 7:16)

8. Where was the news of Jesus' miracle reported? (Luke 7:17)

Lesson 9

Forgiveness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 59

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Memory Verse: “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me therefore, which of them will love him more? Simon answered and said, ‘I suppose the one whom he forgave more.’ And He said to him, ‘You have rightly judged.’” (Luke 7:41-43)

Lesson Truth: He to whom much has been forgiven loves much.

Lesson

The essence of Christianity is that the Lord Jesus forgives sinners. As He continued in His Galilean ministry, Jesus was invited to the home of Simon the Pharisee. At Simon’s home Jesus encountered an unwelcome guest who was a penitent sinner. In a sincere display of affection, a sinful woman anointed Jesus with oil. The Lord Jesus showed that He was ready to forgive a repentant sinner and to confront a self-righteous Pharisee.

In Luke 7, Jesus encountered two very different people: a sinful woman and a Pharisee. In the story, Jesus taught that only those who know they need the forgiveness of their sins can show their love for the Lord. It happened when Simon the Pharisee invited Jesus to his home. While most of the Pharisees would not have invited Jesus to their homes, Simon wanted to check out the Lord on his own. He had no feeling that he needed a Redeemer because he was a self-righteous Pharisee. Even though Jesus knew Simon’s heart and his self-righteous pride, He accepted his invitation. The Lord knew that He would have an opportunity to teach the people His gospel of grace and forgiveness.

As Jesus was sitting at the table with Simon, a woman from the city who was known to be a sinful woman came in. Although this woman had not been invited, she came to Simon’s house anyway. She knew that Jesus was there, and she wanted to show her love for her Lord. This woman had heard that the Lord Jesus forgave sinners. She longed for this forgiveness with all her heart. Because this woman believed that the Lord could forgive her, she brought an alabaster jar of expensive oil to anoint His feet. However, when she came near Jesus, she was so filled with emotion that she stood at His feet weeping. Her tears fell on the Lord’s feet, so the woman began to wipe them with her hair. Then she kissed Jesus’ feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. This woman knew that she could be shamed in public for such a bold demonstration. Yet she did it because she was convinced that Jesus was the Redeemer who would forgive her sins.

But Simon saw this display of affection very differently. He reasoned that if Jesus were really a prophet, He would know that this woman was a public sinner. Simon was certain that any real prophet would not have anything to do with such a vile woman. The wonder of this story is that Jesus was not only a true prophet, but He was the Redeemer. He knew the things that Simon was thinking.

Because Jesus knew what Simon was thinking, He decided to use a parable to teach him the truth about forgiveness. The parable was about two debtors who owed more than either of them could repay. The one owed more than he could earn in five hundred days and the other what he could earn in fifty days. The creditor forgave them both because they were unable to repay him. Jesus then asked Simon, which of the debtors would likely love the one who forgave them the most. Self-righteous Simon had no problem giving an answer that it was the one who had been forgiven the most. Jesus then asked Simon to look at the sinful woman. He reminded

Simon that although he had not shown any of the usual courtesies to his Guest; this woman had washed Jesus' feet with her tears and anointed His feet with oil. Simon never thought that he needed to be forgiven, so there was no need to show his love.

The Lord Jesus then turned to the woman and said to her, "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48). Now her faith was confirmed. She heard from the Redeemer that the sins she had struggled against were forgiven. Jesus left no doubt for this woman when He told her, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace" (Luke 7:50). But Simon and those who were at the table with him questioned the Lord's authority to forgive sins. They did not know Jesus as the Redeemer sent from God, so they asked, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" (Luke 7:49). Jesus shared His Word of grace at Simon's house and a woman's sins were forgiven. But sadly, Simon and his friends felt no need of forgiveness and continued in their unbelief. Have you sought forgiveness for your sins?

Questions

1. What did one of the Pharisees invite Jesus to do? (Luke 7:36)
2. What was known about the woman who came to the Pharisee's house? (Luke 7:37)
3. What did this woman bring to the house to anoint Jesus? (Luke 7:37)
4. With what did this woman wipe the tears that fell on Jesus' feet? (Luke 7:38)
5. Why did Simon the Pharisee think that Jesus was not a prophet? (Luke 7:39)

Lesson 10

Governed by the Kingdom

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 60

Scripture: Luke 9:49–10:24

Memory Verse: “Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the powers of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:19-20)

Lesson Truth: The Spirit of the Kingdom of God governs its workers in all respects.

Lesson

What does it mean to be part of the Kingdom of God? How does it affect the lives of those who are called to work in that Kingdom? In this lesson Jesus teaches His disciples that being a citizen of God’s Kingdom controls all their attitudes and actions. The attitudes and actions of the disciples had to be molded to think like a Kingdom citizen. As we listen to the Lord’s instructions to His disciples, we will learn how to think and act as Kingdom citizens!

Jesus did not foster sectarianism in the Kingdom of God, and He had to correct His disciples against a sectarian attitude. They reported that they saw a man casting out demons in Jesus’ name and they told him he could not do that because he was not of their group. In response the Lord Jesus told them they had been mistaken. They had focused on their own interests instead of on the growth of the Kingdom. They thought that only the disciples should be casting out demons in Jesus’ name. But Jesus informed them that the man was casting out demons by faith and that since he was not against them, he was on their team. Instead of forbidding the man from casting out demons they should have rejoiced that God’s Kingdom was growing.

The time for Jesus’ work in Galilee was over so He set out for Jerusalem where He knew he would suffer and die. On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus went through the country of Samaria. As He passed through the Samaritan villages, Jesus instructed His disciples to go to a village and find a place to lodge. When the disciples went to look for a place, the Samaritans closed their doors. Because Jesus was going to Jerusalem, the Samaritans didn’t want anything to do with Him. When the disciples saw this rejection, they asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to destroy these Samaritans. They reminded Jesus that Elijah had called down fire from heaven to consume a captain and his fifty men. Again, the Lord said they had to change their attitude. He told them plainly that, “The Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them” (Luke 9:56). To be sure, God will judge people for their unbelief, but only after they have rejected the gospel. God’s judgment will come because people spurned His love and not because someone’s pride was hurt.

As Jesus traveled to Jerusalem a man approached Him and said he was willing to follow the Lord wherever He went. Jesus then reminded him what the cost of discipleship really was. The real cost was to be a stranger and homeless person on earth. Jesus then asked another man to follow Him, but this man did not want to follow Jesus until he was free from the responsibility of his parents. Another did not want to follow Jesus until he bid farewell to those at his house. Jesus instructed His disciples that to be a true citizen of God’s Kingdom they had to be ready to leave everything to follow Him. The only attachment a citizen of the Kingdom has to his possessions is to use them to serve the Lord.

The Lord Jesus knew there was a lot of work to be done to spread the gospel in Judea. In order to assist Him in His work He sent out seventy workers in pairs to bring the Word and the miracles of the gospel. He told

them they would be like sheep among wolves because they would encounter a lot of hostility. They were to proclaim that the gospel of grace had come. At the same time if there were cities that did not receive them, they had to shake the dust from their feet in a testimony against them. Jesus said these cities would be judged more harshly than Sodom was judged.

It was with joy that the seventy returned to Jesus and boasted that even the demons were subject to them in the Lord's name. It was sad that these disciples were filled with joy because they appeared to be successful in casting out demons. They failed to understand that unless Jesus had broken the power of Satan when He was anointed as the Redeemer, they would not have been successful. Jesus reminded them of His defeat of Satan when He said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18). Although the disciples would be given unbelievable power and authority in Jesus' name, they were not to rejoice because of that. Instead, they were to rejoice because their names are written in heaven. Do we rejoice because our names are written in heaven? Are we ready to have the Spirit of God's Kingdom control all our attitudes and actions?

Questions

1. Who addressed Jesus about someone casting out demons in His name? (Luke 9:49)
2. What did Jesus say about those who are not against us? (Luke 9:50)
3. According to Jesus' instructions what did the Son of man not come to do? (Luke 9:56)
4. According to Jesus' words what did foxes and birds have that the Lord did not have? (Luke 9:58)

Lesson 11

My Neighbor

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 61

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Memory Verse: “So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ And He said to him, ‘You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.’” (Luke 10:27-28)

Lesson Truth: By faith we know ourselves to be the neighbor of everyone whom God places in our path.

Lesson

Jesus taught His disciples what it meant to be governed by the Kingdom of God. He also taught people who opposed Him and tried to trap Him with questions they thought He could not answer. The lesson today tells about an exchange Jesus had with a scribe who wanted to test Him.

Luke called the scribe who tested Jesus a lawyer. He asked the Lord, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25). This is a very good question if a person really wants to know the truth of the gospel. But this lawyer didn’t ask it for that reason. He asked the question to try to trap Jesus into saying something that was contrary to what the scribes and Pharisees taught. He thought he had the perfect question to trap Jesus. But the Lord answered with a question of His own. He asked, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” (Luke 10:26). The lawyer responded with a good answer when he said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). Jesus acknowledged that this was a good answer and then challenged the scribe to do this and he would live.

This must have surprised the scribe because that was exactly what the scribes taught. They were always urging the people to keep the Law and in that way earn eternal life. But Jesus also knew that this scribe was aware that he could not keep the whole Law. Jesus knew that it was only by God’s grace and favor that His people can be declared righteous. They are declared righteous through the atoning work of Jesus. It is by faith in His work and not through the merit of keeping the Law that His people inherit eternal life. When the scribe knew that Jesus had confronted him with an impossible challenge, he tried to justify himself. He had another question that he thought Jesus could not answer. He asked, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29).

Jesus was aware of the ongoing debate among the scribes about whether a Gentile could be their neighbor. Many scribes felt that they could be neighbors to only Jews. His question revealed that he wasn’t really a neighbor to anyone. He lived for himself and failed to think about the needs of others. Instead of trying to answer the scribe’s question by naming a person, Jesus told him a parable. His parable was about a man who was attacked by thieves as he traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho. The thieves wounded him, took his clothes, and left him to die along the wayside. Presently a priest came by and saw the man but decided to ignore him and walked around him. Then a Levite came by, and he also ignored the man and walked around him. Later, a Samaritan came along and when he saw the man, he had compassion on him and dressed his wounds. He took care of the man as he would have cared for his own brother. The Samaritan also took the man to an inn and paid for his lodging. He even left extra money for the man’s care and promised the innkeeper that he would pay any additional cost when he returned. The Samaritan never thought that he had to help the man to earn something. He did it out of love and not for merit.

6. What did the priest and Levite do when they encountered the injured man? (Luke 10:31-32)

7. What did the Samaritan do when he saw the injured man? (Luke 10:33-35)

8. Who was the neighbor to the man that fell among thieves? (Luke 10:36-37)

Lesson 12

Only One Thing Is Needed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 62

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Memory Verse: “And Jesus answered and said to her. ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.’” (Luke 10:41-42)

Lesson Truth: The one thing needed is to abide in Christ.

Lesson

In this story from Luke 10, Jesus taught about the value of our love for Him. He did this when He responded to Martha’s accusations against her sister Mary. Both Martha and Mary were devoted followers of the Lord Jesus, but they were committed to different ways to serve Him. For that reason, Jesus did not allow Martha to criticize her sister. Instead, He emphasized that there is really only one thing needed in life and that is to abide in Christ Jesus.

After Jesus left His ministry in Galilee and crossed through Samaria, He came to Judea. In Judea, He and His followers made their way to the village called Bethany. Bethany was a small town only three kilometers from Jerusalem. There was a family at Bethany that Jesus knew very well. This was a family of siblings consisting of two sisters and a brother. The sisters were Martha and Mary, who shared a home with their brother Lazarus. Jesus was always welcome at this home and on this occasion, He once again chose to stay there. It is also possible that some of Jesus’ disciples stayed with Him at this home. At any rate there were many preparations that had to be made to feed and make sleeping arrangements for these guests. Martha was the sister who made herself busy with providing hospitality for her visitors. From what Luke records we may conclude that Martha showed this hospitality because of her love for the Lord Jesus. She was a devoted disciple of Christ, and at first she served with a grateful heart.

It is noteworthy that God had Luke record a change in Martha’s attitude when she began to compare herself with Mary. Martha then began to feel sorry for herself, because she was so busy. She had so much work to serve the guests, while Mary just sat and listened to Jesus. As she thought about all her work, her attitude changed and she was no longer able to do her tasks out of love for her Lord. The truth is that Martha became angry that she had to do all the work and Mary did nothing. Finally, when Martha could no longer contain her anger, she went to Jesus and complained. She had harsh words not only for her sister, Mary, but also for Jesus. She was upset that He didn’t see her plight and order Mary to help.

When Jesus heard Martha’s complaint, He had to correct her. The Lord addressed her twice saying, Martha, Martha for emphasis. He then told her that she had made herself busy about many things and made herself anxious. This made her attitude change from doing her work as a loving service to the Lord to a grudging duty. For this reason, Jesus defended Mary’s service of devotion against Martha’s housework.

Mary listened for Jesus’ sake because she wanted to remain close to Him. Jesus told Martha that was the one thing that was needed. That was exactly the thing that Mary had chosen, so it would not be taken away from her. God’s people must always long to remain close to their Lord no matter what calling or vocation they follow. It is the service of love, which Christ values. Love for the Lord can be present in the humblest service.

Lesson 13

Praying to the Father

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 63

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13

Memory Verse: “Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1)

Lesson Truth: Because God is Father we are to pray in bold confidence.

Lesson

Prayer is important in the life of every Christian. The disciples saw that prayer was very important to Jesus, as He would spend long periods and even whole nights in prayer. The disciples longed to be in fellowship with the Lord in prayer, so they asked Him to teach them how to pray. This was a request that Jesus readily fulfilled by giving the disciples His model prayer. Still prayer was more than just saying words; it also included an attitude of trust and confidence. Jesus helped His disciples understand the confidence with which they should pray by using a parable. This parable showed the disciples that the Father in heaven places Himself under obligation to grant what his people request in prayer.

The occasion of the exchange about prayer that Jesus had with His disciples took place after Jesus spent a long time praying. The Lord found the strength to do His work, as He called on the Father in prayer. He also prayed as the Head of the covenant. As the Head of the covenant, He prayed for strength to suffer and die to atone for the sins of His people. Through His atoning sacrifice, He would earn the right for us to call God our Father. When His disciples noticed Jesus spending much time in prayer, one of them said: “Lord teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciple.” (Luke 11:1).

That request from His disciples must have been a joy to the Lord Jesus. If they had a desire to pray as He prayed, the Lord would certainly teach them a model prayer. He taught them in His model prayer that they must first surrender to the Holy name of the Father. They would do this by asking that the name of the Father be hallowed and that His Kingdom would come. Jesus taught them to ask that the Father’s will would be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Jesus knew that if the disciples hallowed and honored the name of the Father, He would honor their requests for their physical needs. If they had a deep desire for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done in the hearts of believers, they could ask boldly for their daily needs. The Lord showed them that there was an order in the priority of the things for which they prayed.

Praying that God would supply their daily bread was a most basic petition, but it was also a test. If they could trust God to supply all their physical needs, they could also pray for their spiritual needs. He encouraged them to ask boldly that God would forgive their sins and that they would have the grace to forgive others. The disciples could address God as Father and approach Him with boldness because Jesus purchased that right for them. They could have confidence because, through Jesus, God was again their Father. Jesus then used a parable to help the disciples understand why they should boldly ask the Father. The Lord said the Father responds to the requests of His people, like being obligated to a friend.

In His parable, Jesus showed how a friend would be obligated to help a friend even at night. The inconvenience of the hour would not stand in the way of helping a friend if his request for help persisted. In just that way the Father in heaven will help us because of the obligation He took upon Himself in the covenant, when He said he would be our Father. Because God is our Father for the sake of His Son, we may boldly come to Him with

our requests. Jesus told His disciples to ask, and it would be given to them. He told them to seek, and they would surely find. And if they knocked it would be opened to them.

However, Jesus also cautioned the disciples that the Father gives as only a father is capable of giving. A father gives his children what they need. If they ask for bread, he won't give them a stone. If they ask for fish or an egg, he won't give them a serpent or a scorpion. The Lord then gave the disciples the ultimate assurance. He asked if a human father knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? Our greatest need is to have the Holy Spirit to help us learn to live like sons. Through the Holy Spirit God will give us all things!

Questions

1. What did one of the Lord's disciples ask him to do for them? (Luke 11:1)
2. Who did Jesus say the disciples should address in prayer? (Luke 11:2)
3. According to the prayer that Jesus taught them, what daily needs could they request? (Luke 11:3)
4. According to this prayer what spiritual needs could they request? (Luke 11:4)
5. In the parable, how many loaves would the friend give because his friend persisted in asking? (Luke 11:8)

