

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TEACHER'S GUIDE: LESSON 7B

[Assigned Reading: Luke 22-24, Matthew 26-28]

[Themes to Teach: Crucifixion, Resurrection & Great Commission]

In the past couple of lessons, we have covered the birth of Jesus, the prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah, His temptation, His ministry of miracles, and His unparalleled teaching. Yet, it is important to note that Jesus did not simply come to fulfill prophesy, perform miracles, or teach powerful principles. His mission was declared plainly at the announcement of His birth.

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

After a public ministry that lasted about three years, Jesus informed His disciples that He was to be crucified at Passover.

Matthew 26:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,

2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Jesus came to be our substitutionary sacrifice. He came to redeem us from our sins.

I. THE ROAD TO CALVARY:

1. Jesus at the Last Supper: (Read Matthew 26:26-29)
 - a. Jesus repurposed the Passover meal. He revealed to the disciples this ancient ceremony was about to be fulfilled in His death, burial and resurrection.
 - b. The wine represented His blood that would be shed for the remission of sins.
 - c. The bread represented His body that would be bruised and broken for our iniquity.
 - d. Today, we celebrate the Passover through the observance of Christian communion.

2. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: (Read Matthew 26:36-39)
 - a. Jesus surrendered His human will to the eternal will of God.
 - b. Adam & Eve condemned mankind by essentially saying, "my will be done." Jesus redeemed mankind by saying, "thy will be done."
 - c. The cup He prayed to avoid was the cup of God's wrath. The collective guilt of all mankind.

3. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and identified Him to the High priest's servants with a kiss. (Read Matthew 26:46)
4. Jesus is tried before the High Priest for blasphemy: (Read Mathew 26:57-69)
 - a. They could not find a reason to accuse Him.
 - b. The high priest declared Jesus guilty of a false charge.
 - c. Those watching declared that He was guilty and worthy of death.
 - d. They spat on him, struck him, and mocked him.
5. Jesus is led from High Priest to Pontius Pilate. (Read John 19:1-3)
 - a. Pilate found no fault in Him.
 - b. He gave the Jews a choice between Jesus and Barabbas, a thief. They chose the thief.
 - c. He had Jesus whipped with 39 stripes. (Read Isaiah 53:1-7)
 - d. They placed a crown of thorns on his head.

II. CHRIST DIED FOR US: (Read Matthew 27:35-40 & 45-50)

1. Jesus took our place on the cross:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- a. By His stripes we are healed.
- b. He was wounded for our transgressions.

2. Jesus died for everyone:

Romans 5:8-9 (NKJV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

When He died, the veil in the temple was torn. This signified that everyone now had access to God.

3. His blood redeems us from our sin:

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

The blood flowed from His pierced hands & feet, the crown of thorns, and the wound in His side

III. CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD:

Without the resurrection, Jesus would have been just another martyred prophet.

1. What does the resurrection mean?
 - a. The resurrection proves that He was sinless. (Read Acts 2:24)
 - i. Death's claim on every man is that we are all sinners.
 - ii. Because Jesus was sinless, death could not hold Him.
 - b. The resurrection proved that He was God. (Read John 20:27-29)
 - c. The resurrection gives hope to every Christian, that death is not final. (Read Romans 8:11)

2. Proof of the Resurrection: (Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
 - a. The empty tomb:
 - i. The Romans and Jews could have stopped the spread of Christianity by simply showing the body of Jesus.
 - ii. The tomb was secured, and the body could not be stolen.
 - b. He was seen by twelve of His disciples: (Read Matthew 28:16-20)
 - c. He was seen of them for 40 days: (Read Acts 1:3)
 - d. Seen by 500 people at one time: (Read 1 Corinthians 15:4-7)

I. THE GREAT COMMISSION: (Read Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16-17; Luke 24:46-49)

After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days helping the disciples understand what had just happened. Furthermore, He outlines the mission and the message of the church.

1. There are three different Gospel accounts of the Great Commission. They must be viewed together to provide the full picture of what Christ commanded. They should be viewed as an overlay of each other.

2. The elements of the Great Commission:
 - a. Preach the Gospel to all the world.
 - b. Teach and make disciples.
 - c. Call people to faith in Jesus.
 - d. Call people to repentance.
 - e. Baptize people in the name of Jesus.
 - f. Receive the Holy Spirit.
 - g. Expect supernatural signs to follow.

3. The Great Commission matches the message of John the Baptist (Read Matthew 3:11)

4. The Great Commission was fulfilled by Peter on the day of Pentecost. (Read Acts 2:38)