

NOT DEAD BUT SLEEPETH  
Lesson 61

MEMORY TEXT: "All wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead." Luke 8:52,53

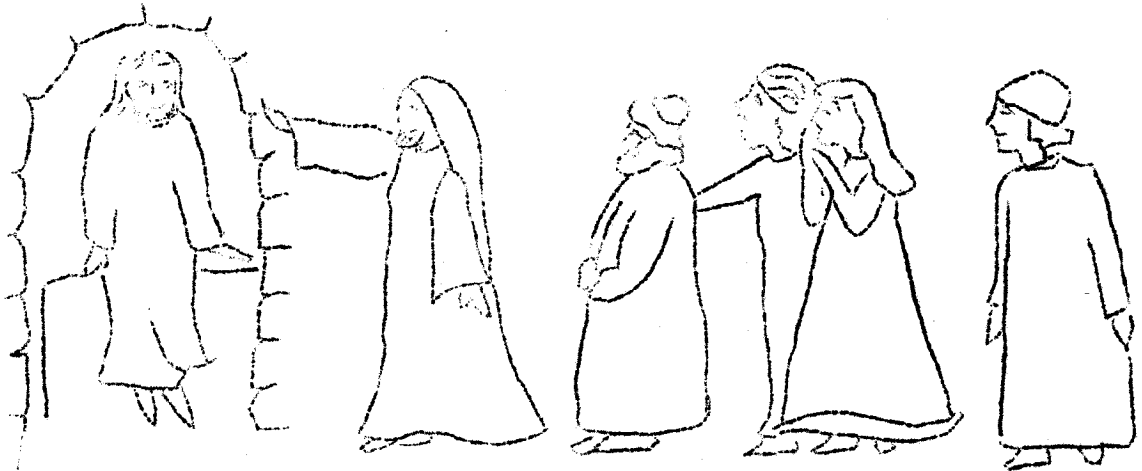
The best way to think of death is to call it sleep. They are not exactly alike, but they are very much the same. When you have a good sleep, you do not know anything of what is going on. Ecclesiastes 9:5,10 describes death in just that way. So does Psalm 146:4.

A very happy likeness between death and sleep is that, in both cases, the person awakes. 1 Corinthians 15:22. Jesus said "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth;" John 5:25-29.

When all knew that Jairus's daughter was dead, Jesus said, "She...sleepeth." Luke 8:41,42, 49-56. How thrilled that father and mother must have been, to have their beloved daughter restored to life! Let us remember this joyous experience when we lose a loved one in death.

When Lazarus died, Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth." John 11 and 12:1,2. This part of Jesus' life makes us realize how much he enjoyed and appreciated people. He did not say, "I was the Logos, the only creation of God. I am much greater than these men and women. I will do God's will and die, but I will not waste my time fellowshiping with them." No. Jesus loved his friends. And he wept when they were sad. But he knew that God would be glorified more, and the people's faith made greater, if he would raise Lazarus from the dead instead of just making the sick man well. So here was another example of awakening a

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How many times does the Bible tell of people who were awakened from death?
2. Why were these miracles performed?
3. Was that resurrection to life eternal?
4. How many days was Lazarus dead?
5. What was Lazarus doing during those days?
6. If Lazarus spent those days in a beautiful heavenly home, why did Jesus restore him back to the problems of this earth?
7. If Lazarus spent those days in purgatory or eternal torment, why didn't he tell his friends of those experiences?
8. What is the "sleep" of Daniel 12:2?
9. What is the "sleep" of II Peter 3:4?
10. What is the "sleep" of Acts 7:60?
11. What is the "sleep" of Psalm 13:3?
12. Why did Jesus permit some to enter the room where he performed his miracle and then tell them to leave? Luke 8: 51-54.
13. Explain the importance of faith in the time of resurrection.

CAPERNAUM "CAST DOWN TO HELL"  
Lesson 62

MEMORY TEXT: "It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee." Matthew 11:24

Capernaum was the city where Jesus performed most of his miracles. Wouldn't you expect these people to love Jesus more than any other people did? Instead, they ignored the Savior of the world.

Because this city had been given the highest privilege of Jesus' favors, it received the lowest punishment, oblivion; it was completely destroyed.

Much favor demands much responsibility. If you are given many privileges, you are expected to use them wisely.

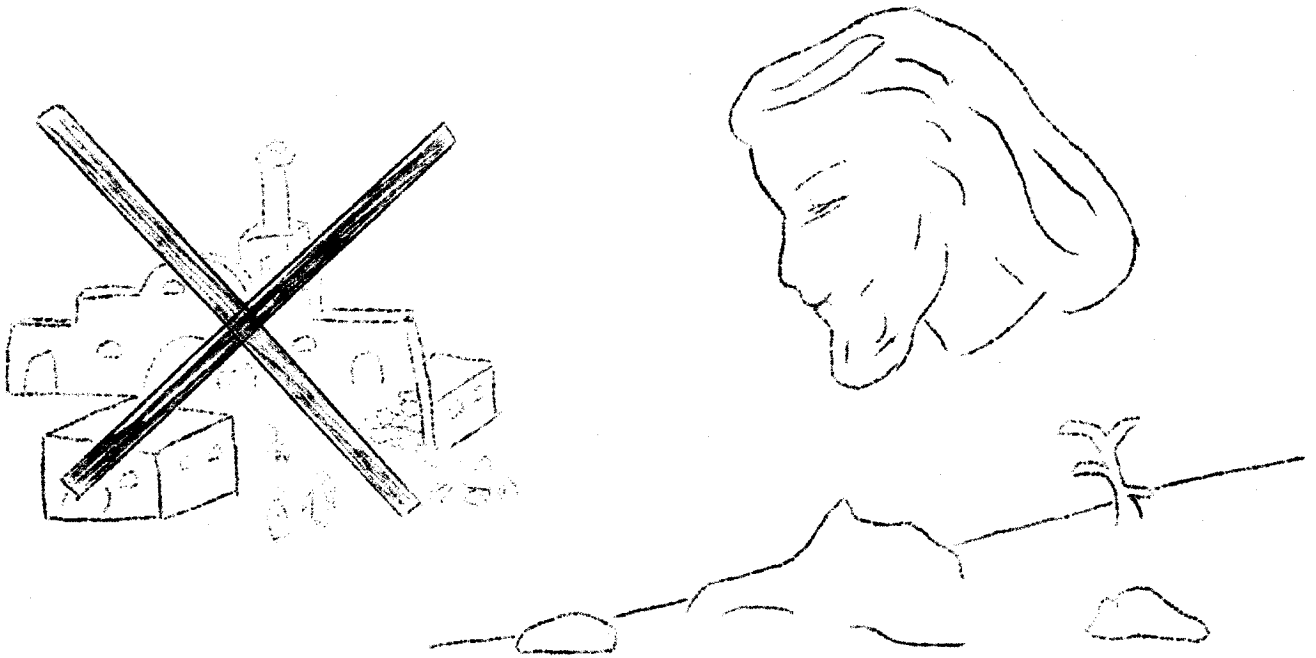
Because the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had not received such great blessings from the Lord, not as much was expected from them. Jesus proclaimed to Capernaum, "In the Day of Judgment, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for you."

This Day of Judgment is not a 24-hour day, but a 1000-year day in which all the world is tested and judged worthy or unworthy of everlasting life. A man will only be judged after being given every possible opportunity to do what is right. During this Day of Christ's Reign the darkness of sin will vanish and every help and blessing will be available so that obedience will be made easy.

The first Judgment Day was in Eden. Adam was tested, and he failed to be obedient so his punishment was death. All of the human family has been dying ever since as a part of that punishment. Jesus died to release all from that punishment.

Released from that punishment by faith in the power of Jesus' blood, the Little Flock has had its own period of testing before the world's Great Day of Judgment. As each true Christian lives

CAPERNAUM "CAST DOWN TO HELL"  
Lesson 62



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why didn't everyone who knew Jesus love him?
2. How would you treat Jesus if he lived next door to you?
3. How much do you think about Jesus? Do you live differently than you would if you didn't know about Jesus?
4. How long is a day in your life?
5. How long did Peter say a day is? II Peter 3:8.
6. How many judgment days are mentioned in our lesson?
7. Who is the Great Judge of the Universe? Hebrews 12:23.
8. Who helps God judge the world during the Millennium?
9. Where will the Little Flock be while they are judging the earth's people?
10. What does "hell" mean in Matthew 11:23?
11. What happened to Capernaum?
12. Read Ezekiel 16:49-61.

SHEEP AND GOATS PARABLE  
Lesson 63

MEMORY TEXT: "Come, ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matthew 25:34

This parable pictures the Kingdom conditions after the Church class is glorified in heaven. Matthew 25:31-46. "The Son of Man (Jesus) shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels (the true Church) with him."

All people of all nations, including the people now asleep in death, will be tried in life's various experiences during the thousand years of judgment. The Christ (Jesus and his Church) will then see the people's true desires--whether they are willing or unwilling to come into full harmony with God. Will a person receive the divine blessing of life everlasting, or will he be destroyed in the Second Death from which there is no resurrection? This will be decided, wisely and lovingly, by the Lord and his Church.

The sheep represent the people of earth who are obedient and follow the ways of the Lord. The goat's represent earth's people who are disobedient and refuse to follow God's instructions. Every person on earth will be in one class or the other--either receiving for their obedience "the gift of God, eternal life," or for their disobedience the punishment of destruction, KOLASIN, "being cut off from life. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4.

Because fire destroys things so completely, the Bible often speaks of fire to show entire destruction. The garbage dump of Jerusalem was in the Valley of Hinnom, and the garbage was burned there. Not only was garbage thrown into that fire, but also dead animals, and even wicked criminals whom no one bothered to bury

SHEEP AND GOATS PARABLE  
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why wouldn't a person obey in the KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?
2. Would eternal torment or true death be the greater punishment? Which is most fair, most just?
3. Would you believe in a God who would put non-Christians into everlasting fire when they died?
4. Read Acts 2:27 and Acts 2:31. Was Jesus in hell?
5. Look in the dictionary and find the original Anglo-Saxon meaning of the word "hell."
6. The Greek word which is translated "hell" in English is sometimes translated "grave" so that either word could be used. Read Acts 2:27, 31, saying "grave" instead of "hell."
7. Do these scriptures mean real "fire"?  
"The tongue is a fire" James 3:6.  
"The fire of my jealousy" Ezekiel 36:5.  
"A fire in my bones" Jeremiah 20:9.
8. Were the sheep in the parable REAL sheep?  
Were the goats in the parable REAL goats?  
Is the fire in the parable REAL fire?

KINGDOM WORK ILLUSTRATED  
Lesson 64

MEMORY TEXT: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

Most of the people around Jesus were poor. Many of them were sickly. It was hard for them to imagine how the Kingdom would be. So Jesus performed miracles, and they saw a little bit of the wonders God's power could cause.

Wouldn't you have been surprised if you had seen him change the water to wine at the Cana wedding? You would have thought, "This Jesus has the power to fulfill his promises of the Kingdom, too." John 2:1-11.

What if one of the lepers Jesus cleansed had been your brother, or your father, or you? Would you then, believe that all sickness would be healed in the Kingdom?

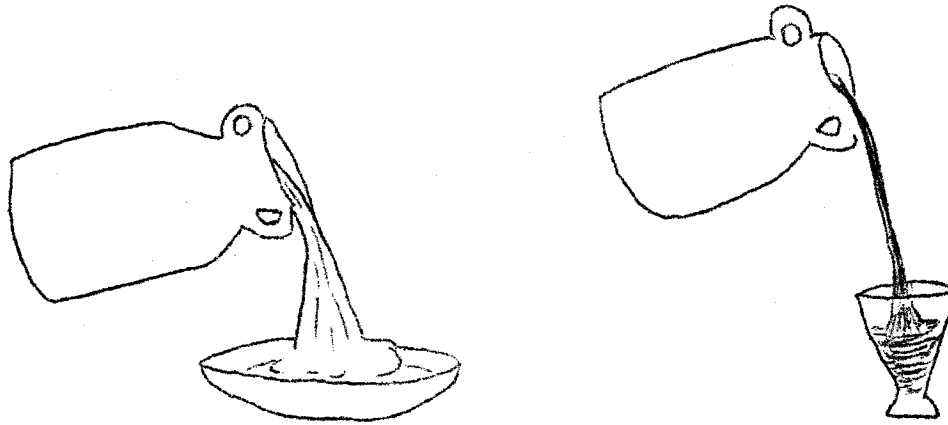
Leprosy is a picture of sin. Only one leper returned to thank Jesus for making him well. Only a Little Flock now appreciates Jesus' dying to save us from our sins. Luke 17:11-17.

The healing of the sick represented the fact that all diseases will be healed by the Good Physician, this Messiah. Matthew 9:10-13.

The opening of the blind eyes and of the deaf ears represented the opening of the eyes and ears of understanding. In the glorious Kingdom, all will be able to understand God's ways. Matthew 13:13-17.

Our Lord's transfiguration on the mount was another illustration of the Kingdom. Matthew 17:1-9. Jesus had said that some of his disciples would not die until they had seen the Kingdom (Matthew 16:28) and here they were; seeing the Kingdom in a vision. Moses represented the earthly phase of the Kingdom, the ancient worthies who will be the princes on the earth. Elias represented the

KINGDOM WORK ILLUSTRATED  
Lesson 64



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Is there ever any blessing associated with sickness and trouble?
2. Would people yearn for the Kingdom if there was no death?
3. Would people yearn for Christ's Kingdom if they could find complete happiness another way?
4. Why did sin and sickness come into the world in the first place?
5. What was the punishment for that first sin?
6. Who bought the dying race of mankind?
7. What price was paid?
8. Why must people approach God through Jesus?
9. Why did Jesus perform miracles?
10. Which was the first of Jesus' miracles?
11. If water represents truth, and wine represents joy, when will all the world drink the water of truth which has become the wine of joy?
12. What kind of truth will people learn?
13. What joys will they experience?
14. Which is more marvelous, the miraculous wine of the wedding, or the joys of the Kingdom?

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST  
Lesson 65

MEMORY TEXT: "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." John 12:13

Toward the close of Jesus' ministry, he came to Bethany, to the home of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. Matthew 26:6-13. This was the same Lazarus whom Jesus had awakened from the sleep of death.

Mary loved the Lord very much, even as you and I should love him, and she knew he had many wicked enemies who would like to get rid of him. To express her appreciation of the way Jesus had blessed her and her family, Mary gave him a gift.

Perhaps you have bought cologne for your dad for Father's Day, but the perfume Mary bought was much more expensive. Judas especially thought she was foolish to spend her money in this way. What he could have done with that money!

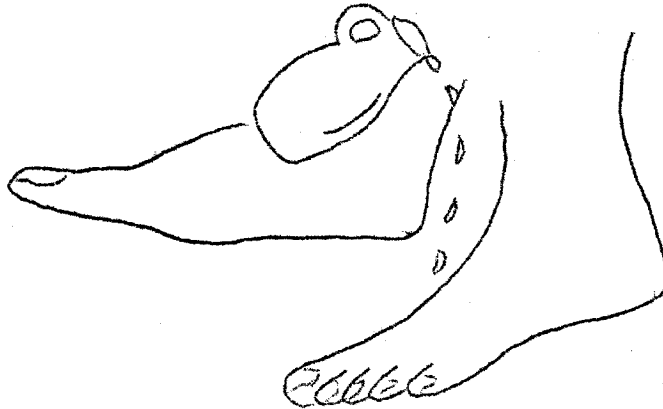
Mark 14:8 tells that Jesus was pleased with Mary's token of love; and that not many days would pass before Jesus would be taken from them and it would be too late to give him any earthly gift.

The next day he sent for a donkey and rode on it into Jerusalem. This was a kingly custom. Israel's Kings rode on donkeys. Matthew 21:1-11.

Many, many people hoped Jesus would be their king, so that they would no longer have to serve the Roman ruler. They hailed him gladly, "Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to the son of David:" They scattered clothing and palm-branches before him; they wanted to give the best they had to this Great Man.

But Jesus wept over the city. He knew the people wanted more miracles, but did not want to work and suffer with him. Matthew 23:37-39.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST  
Lesson 65



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How would Judas have spent Mary's money? John 12:4-6.
2. What would you have done for Jesus if you had lived then?
3. What do you do for Jesus and his people now?
4. What more could you do?
5. What kind of a king did the people expect Jesus to be?
6. Why couldn't Jesus be that kind of a king?
7. How had the Jews treated the prophets?
8. Had Jesus tried to help the Jews?
9. What will be the punishment of the Jews who hated Jesus?
10. Was Jesus kind and gentle to the money-changers in the temple?
11. Did any Jews remain faithful to Jesus?
12. What was their reward?
13. Read Zechariah 9:9. Of whom was Zechariah speaking?
14. Why didn't the scribes and the chief of the people kill Jesus yet? Luke 19:47, 48.