

THE COST OF THE KINGDOM

Lesson 66

Memory Text: "Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life."
Matthew 7:14

A young ruler asked Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus told him to keep the Law of Moses, as every Jew must try to do. The Law promised eternal life to any Jew who would keep it.

The young man had tried to be pleasing to God, and he replied, "Master, all these have I observed from my youth."

But there was more. The Law had required strict justice: do not steal, do not lie, do not worship anyone but God. Now Jesus asked more:

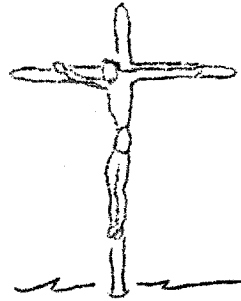
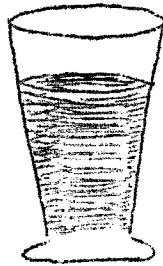
"Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, give to the poor,... take up the cross, and follow me." Mark 10:17-22.

This was different! Must everyone be a poor, sick beggar to enter the Kingdom?

No. But the ruler did not wait to hear the rest. He could not bear to think of giving up his servants and his comfortable home and his beautiful clothes and his wealthy friends, so he left Jesus, unwilling to follow him.

What the rich young ruler didn't realize was that anything a Christian sacrifices is quickly replaced by greater blessings. He would not need those servants if he lived in a smaller home. He would have found joy in doing his own work well instead of always worrying about whether his servants were being careless in their chores. He would have found simpler clothes easier to care for, more practical for work. His true friends would not care if he had money or not, and he would have gained the most wonderful friends in the world among the Lord and his brethren.

THE MEMORIAL SUPPER
Lesson 67



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. On what day did the Jews select the lamb for their Passover meal? Exodus 12:3.
2. On what day did Jesus, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world, offer himself as King riding on the donkey?
3. What blood kept the firstborn of Israel from dying that first Passover night?
4. What blood was shed for all the world that they need not remain dead forever? Exodus 12:5-7.
5. How was the Jewish "day" arranged? At what time does their day begin? At what time does it end?
6. On what day of the month did Jesus eat the Jewish Passover lamb and herbs?
7. On what day of the month did Jesus, the Lamb of God, die on the cross?
8. From what did the Jews (at the first Passover) expect to be delivered? Exodus 12:42.
9. How does a true Christian feel about worldly things?
10. When a true Christian sacrifices as Jesus did, is this Christian sad? Romans 8:18.
11. Give examples of Christian sacrifice?

"ECCE" HOMO!" BEHOLD THE MAN!

Lesson 68

Memory Text: "I find no fault in him."

John 19:4

After the supper, Jesus with eleven of his apostles went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While they were there, Judas, the twelfth apostle, came to Jesus with a band of men. Armed with swords, these men took Jesus to the high priest and on to Pilate.

The chief priests and all the council tried to think of an excuse to put Jesus to death, but there was none. Mark 14:55.

Finally, they remembered how the poor people had wanted to make him a king to free them from the Roman rulers. Hadn't Jesus ridden on the donkey in the manner of a king? Surely the Roman rulers would put Jesus to death for that! Then the Jewish religious leaders would be rid of him.

You know and I know that Jesus will be King of the whole world in his glorious Kingdom, but he had to die first and his 144,000 Kings and Priests have to die before they will all reign from heaven in the Millennium. Jesus was not trying to take the throne from the rulers of those days.

But the priests did not care. This Jesus was being acclaimed as the Son of God. He was making friends of many Jews. He was warning the Jews against dishonest and greedy priests. This must be stopped!

Pilate, the governor of Judea, did not like the Jews and he did like this man they had brought to him. Hoping to avoid more trouble from the Jews, and yet not wanting to hurt an innocent man, Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, King of Galilee where Jesus had lived. Let King Herod worry about the problem.

Herod did not want to take sides in the quarrel, either.

"ECCE HOMO!" BEHOLD THE MAN!
Lesson 68



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What special religious feast caused both Pilate and Herod to be in Jerusalem at this time?
2. What did Herod know about Jesus? Luke 23:7,8.
3. Did Herod fear Jesus' miraculous powers?
4. How did Herod treat Jesus? Luke 23:11.
5. What did Pilate want to do with Jesus? Luke 23:16.
6. What did Pilate's wife advise Pilate to do with Jesus? Matthew 27:19.
7. Who was Barabbas? Matthew 27:15-17, 20,21.
8. Was Jesus acting as his followers expected?
9. How was Jesus treated? Matthew 27:22-37.
10. What are Christian characteristics? Ephesians 4:32; I Corinthians 13:1-8; Matthew 10:16; 5:3-12; 5:44; 6:2-4; 6:34; 7:1; Mark 9:35; and Mark 12:29-31.

THE DYING THIEF'S HOPE

Lesson 69

Memory Text: "Verily I say unto thee today, thou shalt be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43

Death is an enemy in any form. 1 Corinthians 15:26.

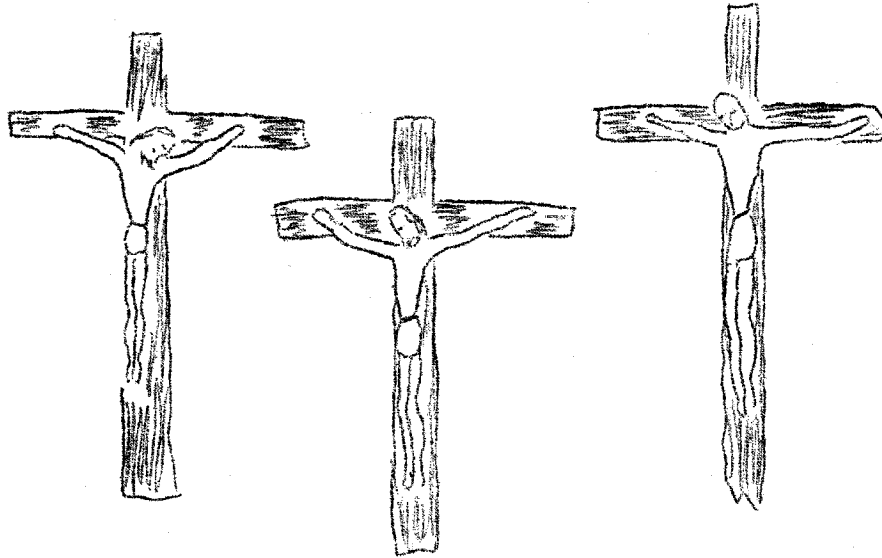
Crucifixion is a cruel and torturous form of death. But many sorrows can be endured if we feel loved. And Jesus was spat upon and mocked and scourged. His closest friends were too stunned to know what to do. Peter said he did not even know Jesus. His enemies, who had known of his powerful miracles, laughed at his suffering: "Save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross...He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, "I am the Son of God." Matthew 27:40-43. Jesus cried in his weakness, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46.

In the midst of this heartbreaking sadness, Jesus heard the thieves talking on either side of him. Mark 15:27-28. There they were, three men dying in greatest agony -- each nailed to his own cross. One of these criminals scorned Jesus, and said to him, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."

The other thief scolded the first. He said, "Don't you fear God? You and I deserve this punishment, for we are wicked men. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then the second thief spoke to Jesus: "Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:39-43. Even the apostles didn't really understand what was going on, so surely this stranger did not know. But he may have heard of Jesus' amazing miracles and thought that another one could be performed

THE DYING THIEF'S HOPE
Lesson 69



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Did Jesus go to Paradise the day he died?
2. Where did Jesus go the day he died? John 20:17.
3. If PARADISE means A PLACE OF FUTURE HAPPINESS (Strong's Concordance), would it refer to earth or heaven or both?
4. Will Jesus be in the earthly part of Paradise or the heavenly part of Paradise?
5. Will the thief be in the earthly or heavenly part of Paradise?
6. What sign was printed above Jesus? Luke 23:38.
7. How did Jesus warn the Jews about their punishment for crucifying him? Matthew 27:25; Luke 23:28-30.
8. What happened to Judas, the apostle who helped the priests capture Jesus? Matthew 27:3-8.
9. Compare Psalm 22:18 and Matthew 27:35.
10. Compare Isaiah 53:12 and Luke 22:37.
11. What was the saddest part of Jesus' death?
12. What should the disciples have done to help Jesus?
13. What happened at the time of Jesus' crucifixion? Mark 15:38; Luke 23:44,45.

"QUICKENED IN SPIRIT"

Lesson 70

Memory Text: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:44

The hopes of the disciples were shattered. They had expected so much of the Lord. They had loved him dearly, and trusted in his great wisdom and power. They were ready to follow him right into the Kingdom. But death! Crucifixion! The shame of dying with criminals!

All they could do was weep. They couldn't think clearly. They didn't know what to do next. They needed help.

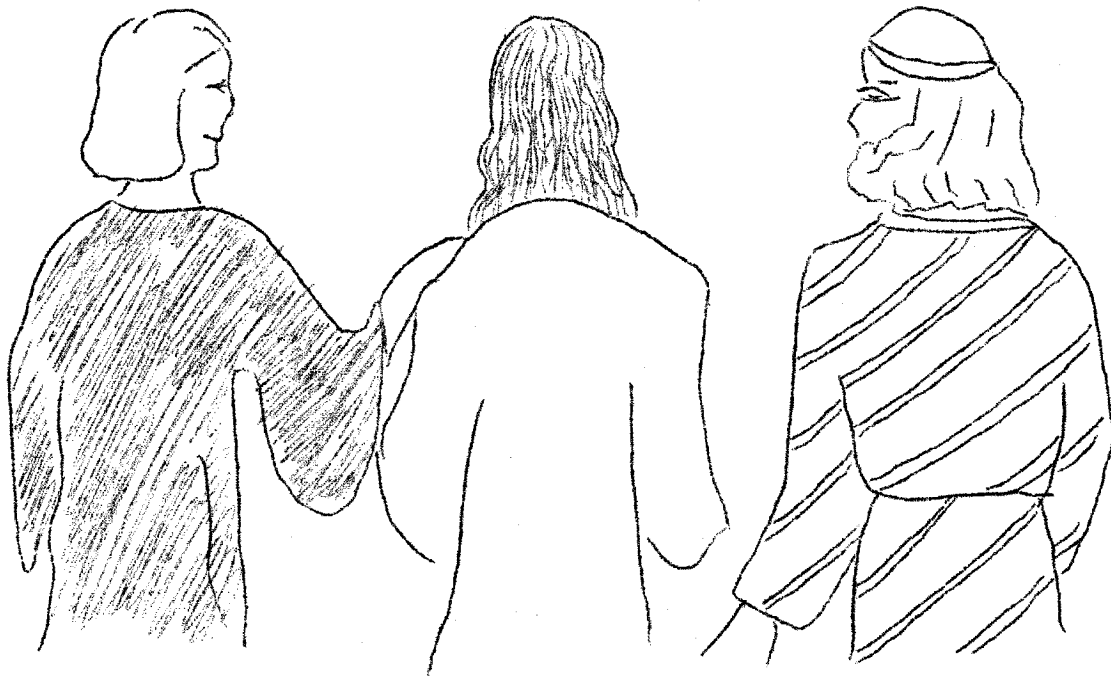
And so the Lord showed himself the first day of his resurrection. Think of the thrill Mary knew when she heard his voice speak her name! No one could ever tell her that Jesus had remained dead. He was risen! The greatest of miracles had happened. Her Master had died and now he lived.

Jesus told Mary to go and tell the brethren about his resurrection. How happy she was to share her joy! Can you imagine how they crowded around, asking questions? "What did he say?" And she remembered that he had said, "I am not yet ascended to my Father...I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." John 20:1-18.

But two of the brethren were not there to hear Mary. They didn't know that the Lord was risen. So, as they walked together, they talked sadly of the crucifixion. Luke 24:13-32. Now Jesus' human body had died, and he no longer looked the same. Mary had recognized his voice, not his appearance. And here Jesus came along and walked with the two, and they thought he was a stranger.

The "stranger" asked why they were so sad, and they explained,

"QUICKENED IN SPIRIT"
Lesson 70



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why was it hard for the disciples to understand Jesus' death? John 16:12,13; I Corinthians 2:14.
2. When did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit?
3. Why hadn't the disciples received the Holy Spirit before? John 7:39.
4. What is the holy influence and power of God like? What effect does it have on a true Christian? Isaiah 11:2; I Peter 3:4; Ephesians 4:23; I John 4:6; Hebrews 10:29; II Corinthians 4:13.
5. Why didn't the disciples recognize Jesus as they walked to Emmaus?
6. How did they recognize Jesus? Luke 24:30,31.
7. Which prophecies did the disciples expect Jesus to fulfill?
8. Which prophecies had they overlooked?
9. Which prophecies did Jesus explain to them?
10. Jesus did not look familiar to Mary or to the two walking to Emmaus. Why did he use his former appearance in Luke 24:36-45?

ST. THOMAS THE DOUBTER
Lesson 71

Memory Text: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."
John 20:29

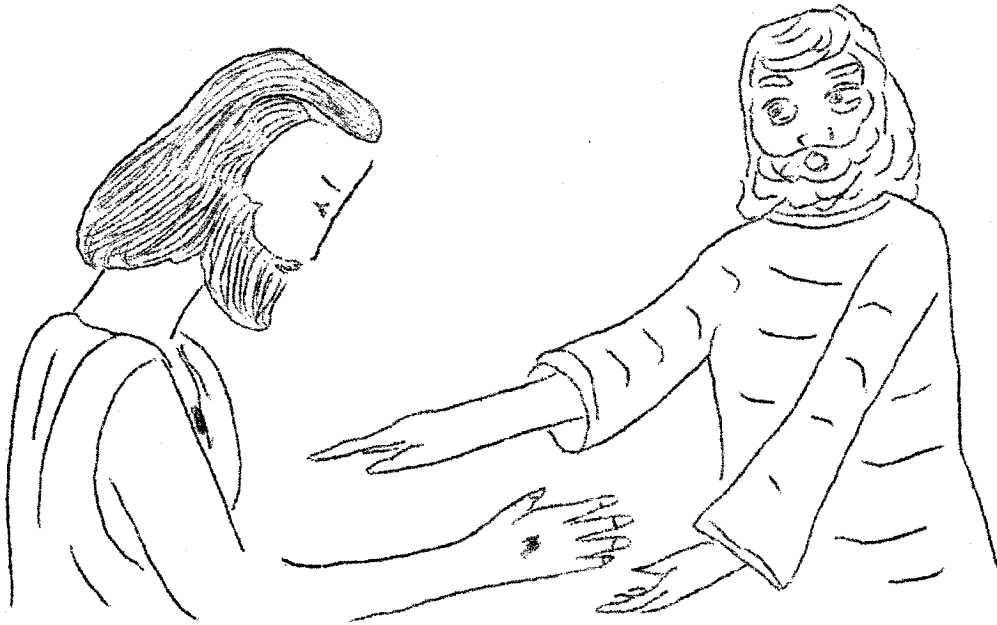
It was very important that the disciples believe in Jesus' resurrection. "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Corinthians 15:17-19.

And so Jesus made his resurrection known. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." For those disciples who had much faith, Jesus made himself known by his tone of voice or his manner of breaking bread. But for those with less faith, he made certain that they, too, would believe.

One evening the disciples were gathered together speaking of the Lord. When he suddenly appeared in their midst, they were frightened. Jesus did not want the brethren to be afraid. He had many things to teach them, and there was no time for fear. So, this time he looked like the Jesus they knew; he told them to touch him; and he ate food just as a human would do. This put them at their ease, and he was then able to explain scriptures to their relaxed minds. Now he could review the many prophecies he had fulfilled. Now he could show the necessity of his miracles and his death. Luke 24:33-48.

The apostle Thomas was one who could not believe that Jesus had risen from the grave. Thomas had been so hurt when his Lord had been crucified. Of course he wanted to believe that his Master had been victorious over death. But he hated to have his brethren fooled. It would be tragic to be disappointed again.

ST. THOMAS THE DOUBTER
Lesson 71



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How do you know that Jesus only used human forms to allow the disciples to see him? I Peter 3:18 and I Corinthians 15:50.
2. Read Matthew 28:1,5-8; Mark 16:2-8; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1,2. What do these scriptures tell you?
3. Read Luke 24:12 and John 20:3-10. What do these scriptures tell you?
4. Read John 20:11-18. What do these scriptures tell you?
5. Read Matthew 28:9,10. What does it say?
6. Read Luke 24:13-36 and I Corinthians 15:5. What does this say?
7. Read Luke 24:36-49 and John 20:19-23. What does this say?
8. Read John 20:24-29. What does this say?
9. Read Matthew 28:16 and John 21:1-24. What does this say?
10. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What does this say?
11. Read I Corinthians 15:6,7 and Acts 1:3-8. What does this say?
12. Read Acts 1:9-12 and Luke 24:50-53. Explain.
13. Read John 20:30,31 and John 21:25. Explain
14. Read Acts 9:1-8. Explain
15. Read Acts 26:13-15. Explain.

THE PENTECOSTAL REST
Lesson 72

Memory Text: "We which have believed do enter into rest."
Hebrews 4:3

One part of the Jewish law was the Jubilee. The year of Jubilee was a time of rest and refreshing. The people rested and the land rested every fiftieth year, every Jubilee.

Leviticus 23:15,16 also speaks of a Jubilee Day, the fiftieth day after the gathering of the sheaf of first-fruits (which was two days after Passover). It was a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving, later called Pentecost.

Jesus had commanded his apostles to stay in Jerusalem after his departure to heaven. Act 1:4. "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49.

Ten days later, the apostles were celebrating Pentecost (as all faithful Jews would do) and God did give His power to them at that time. From then on, His influence on their lives was so great that they could rest and rejoice in His watchcare over them. This fiftieth day was a true Jubilee for those first Christians.

Acts 2:4 says: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost." What in the world is a "holy ghost"? Well, Strong's Concordance says that anything that is holy is "pure" and "consecrated"; and the word ghost really meant a strong force which could not be seen (like the wind). It also means God's mind or disposition. So they were filled with a pure and consecrated strength from the Lord. They would now be able to understand God's will and have His strength to do that will.

The Jubilee Year which the Jews celebrated was like the Kingdom on earth in that people will be freed from sin and restored to the perfection of Eden. It was God's command that the Jubilee

THE PENTECOSTAL REST
Lesson 72



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What happened on the 10th day of Nisan? Exodus 12:3 and John 12:1,2,13.
2. What happened on the 14th day of Nisan? Exodus 12:6, Leviticus 23:5, Mark 14:12-17.
3. What happened on the 15th day of Nisan? Leviticus 23:6 and Mark 15:42-16:1.
4. What happened on the 16th day of Nisan? Leviticus 23:15 and Mark 16:1-8.
5. What happened fifty days later? Leviticus 23:16, 17 and Acts 2:1.
6. Read and explain John 14:26. How would it help a Christian if God influenced his mind?
7. Read and explain John 14:17. Why does a real Christian understand scriptures which other church-goers cannot understand?
8. Would a real Christian think the same things are important which God considers important?
9. What do you consider important?
10. What does God consider important?