THE LIFE AND TIMES OF
Jesus Christ
A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith
Introduction

We are naturally fascinated by a man who lived a perfect life on this Earth. Of course, Jesus of Nazareth was the son of God, the agent of creation himself. From the manger to Golgotha, Jesus served his father exceptionally. Even in mockery and crucifixion, the Lord remained true and just. The word, “Christian,” means like Christ and a claim to be a Christian is more than a designation; it is a duty. By examining the life of Jesus under a student’s microscope, he can gain a greater insight into the way that is always right and proper. Thus he can truly be like his master.

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Lesson 1: His Youth

The Lord’s life on Earth begins in a manger and ends on a cross. Between these two wooden accommodations, he lives at home with Mary and Joseph and then on a preaching trail that leads him across Judea. In this first lesson, we examine his youth, from birth through adolescence to his temptation as a young man about to begin a ministry that will change the world.

1. (Luke 1:26-35) Who explained to Mary that she would become with child of the Holy Spirit? What promises did this angel make to Mary about her son?

   Gabriel promised Mary that God was bringing forth Jesus who would sit on David’s throne and reign over an everlasting kingdom.

2. (Luke 2:1-20) Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?

   They were obeying the census decree of Caesar Augustus, that everyone should travel to his hometown and be counted.

3. Describe the Lord’s birth.

   He was delivered there in Bethlehem, but because there was no room at the inn, he was lain in a manger in swaddling clothes.

4. What message did the shepherds first receive and then repeat?

   An angel told them that the Christ had been born in Bethlehem. After visiting the babe, they told others of these good tidings.

5. (Luke 2:21-40) Why was Jesus circumcised? Is it still binding upon men that male children be circumcised to obey God’s law (Galatians 5:1-6)? Is it wrong to circumcise a male child?

   Jesus was circumcised to obey the law of Moses, but that law is no longer in force. Paul wrote the Galatians that they should not be compelled by the Judaizing teachers to become circumcised, because trying to keep the law of Moses caused them to fall from grace in their attempt to be justified by a defunct law. It is not wrong to circumcise, unless the reason is an attempt to be justified by works alone.

6. What was Simeon’s prophecy concerning the messiah?

   He was destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. Simeon added that a sword would pierce Mary’s heart as well.

7. How did the Hebrew writer describe the word of God (Hebrews 4:12-13)?

   He said that the word of God is sharper than any two-edge sword and pierces so that the thoughts and intents of the heart can become clear to God.

8. While Simeon thought of Jesus as the consolation of Israel, Anna thought of him as the answer to those looking for something similar in Jerusalem. For what were they looking?
9. (Luke 2:39-40) Little is known of the life of Christ between this early journey and the Passover feast around his twelfth birthday. What do these two verses supply about that era?

10. (Matthew 2:1-11) What was it about Micah’s prophecy that worried Herod?

11. (Matthew 2:12-23) What did Herod do when he realized he had been deceived? Why did this strategy fail to remove Jesus?

12. (Luke 2:41-52) At the age of twelve, Jewish boys take on a mature relationship with God and this trip to Jerusalem gave him the opportunity to stand on his own. Why did his decision concern Joseph and Mary?

13. How was Jesus spending his time alone in Jerusalem?

14. What was the reaction of the people in the temple to the Lord’s conversation?

15. How did Jesus explain his trip to the temple? How did young Jesus show his respect for his parents after this? What are we told about his life after this event?

16. (Matthew 4:1-11) List the three temptations and how Jesus overcome them.
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

2
Lesson 2: His Cousin, John the Immerser

Before Gabriel got to Mary, he visited her relatives and told them that they would bear the Messiah's forerunner. Zacharias and Elizabeth were chosen to bring up John, who would become the only man ever called a “baptist” or more properly translated, an “immerser.” John’s humility and courage stand out as impressive qualities.

1. (Luke 1:5-25) What was Zacharias’s occupation? Why did he not have any children yet? Had he given up on having children?

2. What did the angel tell Zacharias about his son (see especially verses 13-17)? List a few things:
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 
   e. 

3. What mistake did Zacharias make? How did Gabriel correct it?


5. Was Zacharias a prophet and a priest? Was John a prophet? Where did John remain until his ministry commenced?


7. Why did John call his audience a brood of vipers? What did he tell them to do to correct themselves?
8. How could each of the following classes accomplish this reformation?
   a. those with ample possessions
   b. tax collectors
   c. soldiers

9. How does John then reveal his humility, despite the fact that he is the most celebrated preacher in Israel on this day?

10. (John 3:22-36) John likens his relationship with Jesus to a wedding. What role does each play?
    a. John is the
    b. Jesus is the
    c. Who is the bride (Ephesians 5:25-33)?

11. (Matthew 3:13-17) Why was John reluctant to baptize Jesus? How did Christ convince him?

12. (Luke 3:18-20) John told his disciples that when Jesus came, the immerser would decrease. When did the decrease in stature occur? What did Jesus begin to preach at that point (Matthew 4:17)?

13. (Matthew 14:1-12) Why didn’t Herod just kill John to begin with?

14. What caused Herod to make an oath on his birthday?

15. What was his vow and how did it turn out?

16. How did Jesus react to the news that his cousin was dead (Matthew 14:13)?
Lesson 3: His Relationships

While Jesus was fully God on Earth, his spirit was enclosed in a tabernacle of flesh and he learned to live under the very laws of nature and humanity he had created in the beginning. Moreover, Jesus carried on human relations, both with his family and assorted friends. His manner provides a number of lessons that can enable us to live more godly if we follow them.

1. (John 7:1-9) How did the Lord’s brothers view his claim to be something special? What did they sarcastically suggest he do? How would you characterize Christ’s reply to their invitation?

2. (Luke 11:27-28) Upon hearing him teach, a woman in the crowd yells out a praise for Christ’s mother. How does Jesus show that she is missing the main point of his work?

3. (Matthew 12:46-50) He echoed this same point on another occasion when his fleshly family came to visit him. Whom did he call his true family in this passage? In all this, was Jesus putting his family down? What was his point?

4. Christ’s teaching and example opened the door on a new arrangement among God’s people. Although the church Christ was building would comprise every race, nationality and background, it would yet rival Israel’s description as God’s household. Summarize how the following passages teach this concept:

   - First Timothy 3:15:

   - First Timothy 5:1-2:

   - First Corinthians 12:12-14, 26:
5. Explain the Lord’s command that his disciple “hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters” in Luke 14:25-33. Describe how this command might become a difficult test for a Christian.

The implication of the original tongue is not akin to our concept of hatred, for such an attitude would violate very clear commands to love all and hate none, especially one's parents and family. Jesus is demanding that we love all these important people less than we love him. It is part of the sacrifice and commitment each saint must make in order to be pleasing to God. A Christian’s parents might try to prevent him from being faithful in a number of ways. One’s siblings may mock the Christian’s sobriety and morality. One’s spouse may persecute the Christian in an attempt to drive him away. In every instance, the Christian must love God more and obey him first.

6. (Luke 10:38-42) The idea that disciples of Christ form a true, spiritual family is illustrated well in Christ’s love for the family of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. How was Jesus a friend to Martha on this occasion?

He rebuked her instead of her sister. Although Martha was industrious and hospitable, she was doing these things to the neglect of the spiritual bounty Christ had brought with him in his teaching. Mary, however, was not lazy but justly preoccupied with the good and eternal part of the evening.

7. How might our friendship with brethren require us to reprove them, according to the following passages?

- Galatians 6:1-2:

- James 5:19-20:

- Hebrews 3:12-13:

- Galatians 2:11-13:

- First Corinthians 5:1-13:

8. (John 11:1-44) How did Jesus show that he was sincerely touched by the sorrow in the household of Lazarus after the man died? Short of raising the dead, what can Christians do today to aid brethren who are mourning or suffering some other trial of life (James 2:14-17, 1 John 3:13-18)?

He promised to come and help and then wept when he arrived and saw Mary crying. We should do whatever we can to help: bring food, donate money, give of time.
Lesson 4: *His Sermon on the Mount*

The sermon on the mount appears very early in the ministry of Christ and yet the completeness of his doctrine is not lacking at all. Very clearly, God’s plan is not in a state of development, but revelation.

1. (Matthew 5:1-12) This section of the sermon is known as the beatitudes, from the Latin *beatus* which begins each verse in the Vulgate and is translated “blessed.” Summarize the way in which all the beatitudes fit together in a common theme.

2. (Matthew 5:13-16) Explain the common theme of the parables in these verses.

3. (Matthew 5:17-20) What was wrong with the “righteousness” of the scribes and Pharisees (Mark 7:6-8, Matthew 23:23-24)?

4. (Matthew 5:21-48) This section contains several messages that contrasted the doctrine they had been hearing with the true doctrine of the kingdom. Summarize what the doctrine had been considered to be under the law of Moses and what it would be under the law of Christ for each of these points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINT OF DOCTRINE</th>
<th>UNDER MOSES</th>
<th>UNDER CHRIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder (verses 21-26)</td>
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<td>Adultery (27-30)</td>
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<td>Divorce (31-32)</td>
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<td>Forswearing (33-37)</td>
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<td>Vengeance (38-42)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enemies (43-48)</td>
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5. (Matthew 6:1-18) What was wrong with the charitable deeds of the hypocrites? What was the solution? What was wrong with their prayers? What was the solution?

6. What part of the Lord’s model prayer cannot be repeated today (Colossians 1:13)?

7. (Matthew 6:19-34) How does one lay up treasure in heaven?

8. Why should we avoid worry?

9. How do we seek the kingdom first ahead of other things?

10. (Matthew 7:1-12) What should we do before reproving a brother (2 Corinthians 13:5, John 7:24, James 5:19-20)?

11. (Matthew 7:13-28) The parable of the wise and foolish men serves to summarize this entire passage. List one thing from each passage that the wise man does and the foolish mans does.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PASSAGE</th>
<th>WISE MAN</th>
<th>FOOLISH MAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 7:13-14</td>
<td>• 7:15-20</td>
<td>• 7:21-23</td>
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12. (Matthew 7:29) Why were the people astonished when Jesus finished speaking?
Lesson 5: His Teaching With Parables

Jesus very often taught through the use of parables. Of course, the parable was not new when he employed it, nor is it extinct now, two millennia later. The word “parable” come from a combination of Greek words which mean literally “to throw alongside.” The parable is an illustration thrown alongside the main teaching to make it simpler and more obviously logical. There are 37 parables recorded in the gospel records in every account except that of John.

1. (Matthew 13:10-17) In a few words, summarize why Jesus taught with parables.

2. What was wrong with the hearts of those that could not understand the parables, according to the Lord’s quotation of Isaiah’s prophecy?

3. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23) This particular parable is among three that dealt with the “gospel seed,” the concept that Christ’s teaching was like a plant which God would tend. What kind of heart was indicated by the following types of soil that Jesus noted?
   a. wayside:
   b. stony places :
   c. thorny places:
   d. good soil:

4. (Matthew 13:44-46) Explain what the Lord is teaching in the twin parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price.

5. (Luke 10:25-37) What question was Jesus answering with the parable of the good Samaritan? What is the point of the parable?
that every man is my neighbor whom I choose to show mercy when he is in need.
6. (Matthew 18:21-35) What question occasioned this parable of the two debtors? What is the parable’s message?

Peter asked how many times he should forgive someone who offends him. The parable’s message is that we should forgive a brother as often as he repents, for if we are hard, our father in heaven will not forgive our trespasses against him.


Jesus taught that one should count the cost before he decided to become a disciple, to make certain he is able to commit himself to a lifelong devotion to God.

8. (Luke 18:9-14) To whom did Christ direct the parable of the Pharisee and publican? Which of the two was justified and why?

Jesus taught those who trusted in themselves that they were righteous that only the humble can be justified in God’s sight. One should confess his sins to God and beg for mercy that he may be exalted.

   a.
   b.
   c.

10. (Matthew 21:28-32) Summarize this parable of the two sons and explain what it means.

The first son refused to work in his father’s vineyard initially, but then relented and did work. The second son promised to work but then did not go. Christ used this to show that the sinners who repented at John’s preaching pleased God while the religious of Israel who rejected him did not.

11. (Matthew 25:1-13) Explain the parable of the ten virgins.

Jesus was teaching a lesson about preparation and that a time will come when preparation will be impossible and we will all be called to answer. The five virgins who had no oil were left outside and could not be joined to the groom. Thus are those who do not prepare to be joined eternally to Christ when death or his return arrives.

12. (Matthew 13:47-50) According to the parable of the dragnet, when will the good and wicked be separated? What will happen to the wicked?

They will be separated at the end of the age. The wicked will be sent to the furnace of fire.

13. (Matthew 25:14-30) According to the parable of the talents, what does God expect of us?

God expects us to make the most of the talents and abilities he gives us. He will reward those who show increase but punish those who bury their talents in neglect.
Lesson 6: His Teaching With Miracles

One of the most startling things about the ministry of Christ and his apostles was their ability to things that were impossible according to the natural laws of physics and science. These miracles were not simply dramatic presentations, but were designed to seal the actual teaching with evidence of a divine hand.

1. (John 1:43-51) The miracle that follows during a wedding in Cana is deemed the Lord’s first miracle, but one must also consider his ability to see Nathanael under the fig tree. What did Jesus tell Nathanael when it was apparent he believed because of this sign?

2. (John 2:1-11) What two things resulted from this beginning of miracles at Cana?

3. (John 4:1-19) Why did the Samarian woman at the well perceive that Jesus was a prophet (cf. 4:29)?

4. The signs Jesus performed here were not the objective of his teaching, but a supporting part. What was necessary to convince men to be converted (cf. John 4:42)?

5. (John 5:1-14) Did Christ’s habit of performing miracles on the Sabbath violate the law of Moses the unscriptural customs of the Pharisees (cf. Matthew 15:3-9 and Mark 7:1-9)?

6. (John 6:1-15) What did the people want to do to Jesus after he fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish?

7. (John 6:30-33) That was the first bad reaction to his miracle. What was their second?
8. (John 6:53-58, 66) After begging repeatedly to have their fleshly appetites satisfied, Jesus teaches them about the bread of life and the power of his blood, implying he would not simply serve to fatten their bellies as they expected. How did they respond when this became apparent?

9. Why did Peter say he was staying?

10. (John 9:1-41) Was this man born blind because of his sins or his parents’ sins? Why was he born blind (cf. John 9:33, 38)?

11. (Matthew 12:38-42) Why did Jesus refuse to entertain the Pharisees with a sign?

12. (John 12:9-11) Why did the Jewish chief priests plot to murder Lazarus?


14. What was the purpose of miracles according to the following passages?
   - Acts 2:22:
   - Hebrews 2:1-4:
   - John 20:30-31:
   - Mark 16:20:

15. What does First Corinthians 13:8-13 teach us about the duration of miracles?
Lesson 7: His Attitudes Toward Error

Christ’s attitude toward error was always one of hatred. To those who sinned in ignorance, he reasoned and pleaded with them to make correction. To those who sinned in hypocrisy, he leveled scathing charges and predictions of destruction. Jesus saw error as a great enemy of faith and his mission, to seek and to save the lost.

1. (Matthew 7:15-20) How can a false prophet be distinguished from the genuine article? Explain.

2. (Matthew 12:1-8) Did Jesus and his disciples actually violate the law of Moses by picking the heads of grain on the Sabbath day? What did they violate?

3. (Matthew 15:1-20) Should the washing of hands have been made a test of fellowship in the way the scribes and Pharisees were asserting?

4. What did Isaiah prophecy about these false teachers’ mouths, lips and hearts?

5. What was Jesus’s attitude toward the observation that he had offended the Pharisees?

6. (Matthew 21:23-32) What was the central matter of the Jews’ question here?

7. How does authority figure in to the distinction between truth and error (Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Peter 4:11)?
8. (Matthew 22:23-33) Many so-called Christians today admit that they do not believe in the resurrection of Christ because it violates scientific principles. The sect of the Sadducees felt the same way in the first century. How did Jesus rebuke them?

9. (Matthew 23:1-39) What one word in this passage stands out as the Lord’s label for the scribes and Pharisees? What does it mean?

10. Note the sins in these verses and list a way that modern men copy it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERSES</th>
<th>SIN IDENTIFIED BY JESUS</th>
<th>HOW COPIED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. 23:3</td>
<td>hypocrisy</td>
<td>failing to practice as one preaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 23:5</td>
<td>calling the media to cover</td>
<td>doing good to be seen of men</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. 3:7-12</td>
<td>religious titles</td>
<td>being called by religious titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 23:14</td>
<td>ability</td>
<td>making long prayers as pretense</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. 23:16</td>
<td>ethics</td>
<td>forswearing by loopholes</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. 23:23-24</td>
<td>obedience</td>
<td>neglecting part of law for others</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. 23:34</td>
<td>slandering teachers</td>
<td>killing the prophets</td>
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11. (Mark 11:15-18) Why was Jesus so nasty to the money changers and dove merchants?

12. Describe how the apostles treated men whose teaching required correction.

a. Acts 18:24-28:

b. Galatians 2:11-16:

c. Galatians 5:11-12:

d. Second Timothy 2:14-18:
Lesson 8: His Twelve Apostles

The Lord Jesus selected twelve men to serve as his emissaries to Judea while he lived on Earth and to the whole world after he ascended back into heaven. Only a handful of these men receive much description in the New Testament but what we learn is greatly instructive.

1. (Matthew 10:2-4) List the names of the twelve apostles.
   1. Simon Peter
   2. Andrew, Peter’s brother
   3. James, the son of Zebedee
   4. John, James’s brother
   5. Philip
   6. Bartholomew
   7. Thomas, who doubted the resurrection
   8. Matthew, the publican, a.k.a. Levi
   9. James, the son of Alphaeus
   10. Lebbaeus Thaddaeus, a.k.a. Judas
   11. Simon, the Canaanite Zealot
   12. Judas Iscariot

2. (Matthew 4:18-20) With what invitation did Jesus call Peter and Andrew? Explain what this means. What did Jesus also call Simon Peter (John 1:42)? He called them to become fishers of men. They were literal fishermen until that day when Jesus called them to begin luring sinners out of the darkness and into the light with the lure of grace. Jesus later called Peter, “Cephas,” which means a stone.

3. (Matthew 4:21-22) What did James and John leave when Jesus called them? How long did they hesitate? What did Jesus nickname them (Mark 3:17)? The sons of Zebedee left their father and their fishing boat immediately when Jesus called them. He later nicknamed them “sons of thunder.”

4. (Matthew 9:9-11) Where did Jesus find the apostle Matthew? What did the people generally think of Matthew’s occupation? Matthew was sitting in the tax office when Jesus told him to follow him. As a publican, he was among the most hated occupation in all Israel for he served the despised Roman occupational government and was part of a very corrupt bureaucracy that overstepped its obligation by exacting more than was right.

5. (John 1:43-46) What did Philip do when Jesus called him to become a disciple and apostle? He found Nathanael and encouraged him to come and see the man he thought was the Messiah.

6. (Matthew 16:13-23) Upon what did Christ promise to build his church following Peter’s confession (First Corinthians 10:4)? Why did Jesus rebuke Peter a short time after this grand moment? He promised to build his church upon the rock of Peter’s confession that he was the Christ. A short time later, Jesus rebuked Peter for discouraging him from assuming his mission to die upon the cross, saying “Get behind me, Satan.”
7. (Matthew 17:1-9) What did these three apostles see on this high mountain? What statement by Peter was divinely corrected?

8. (Mark 10:35-45) What did James and John request? What was wrong with such a petition? How did the other apostles react?

9. (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75) What did all the apostles argue when Jesus said they would be made to stumble that night because of him? Which apostle stood out? How did he fulfill this sad prophecy?

10. (John 12:1-6) How faithful was Judas as the Lord’s treasurer? How did this foible cost him later in his service to the Lord (Luke 22:3-6)?

11. (Matthew 27:3-10) What became of Judas and his ill-gotten gain?

12. (Acts 1:20-26) Who replaced Judas Iscariot in the apostle’s company? What were his qualifications?

13. (First Peter 5:1-4) Besides being an apostle and preacher, what other role did Peter occupy in the early church? If he were the first Pope and Catholic priests and popes must be celibate, how would his position as an elder disqualify him on this ground from being a pope (First Timothy 3:2, Matthew 8:14)?

14. (Revelation 1:1-11) What became of John near the end of his life?
Lesson 9: *His Promise to Gentiles*

Jehovah promised Abraham that in him “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:3). God’s other two promises to the great patriarch were more quick in coming to pass. The great nation that sprang from his loins became Israel, which dwelt in the land of promise, Canaan, following a divinely led conquest. The third promise of a blessing upon every nation on earth took more time, but turned out to be worth the wait. This promise dealt with salvation, universally offered to both Jew and Gentile, through the sacrifice and doctrine of Jesus Christ.

1. The following prophecies all touch on the concept that God had not forgotten his Gentile creation and was planning to include them in an offer of redemption from sin. Briefly summarize how each passage advances this promise.
   
   a. Daniel 2:44:

   b. Daniel 7:13-14:

   c. Malachi 1:11:

2. (Matthew 3:1-10) Jewish pride demanded that Gentiles be considered a lesser form of humanity. The Jews went so far as to believe that their privileged birth made them righteous in God’s sight, while making the Gentiles forever unacceptable to him. How did John respond to this attitude among his countrymen? Look for the deeper importance of what he is telling them.

   John is telling them that God could raise up children of Abraham from any stone on the ground. He also taught that an ax was laid at the tree of Jewish privilege and any self-righteous branch would surely be excised. Underlying all this imagery is the possibility that God might raise up non-Jews to be descendants of Abraham.

3. (Matthew 8:5-13) How did the Gentile centurion show his faith to Jesus? What did Jesus say in response that must have made some of the Jews seethe?
4. Explain what the Lord meant concerning the kingdom in verses 11-12.

5. (Matthew 12:15-21) The Jewish expectation concerning their Messiah was that he would be a military leader like the Judges and would lead a revolt against the occupying force of Roman Gentiles. This messiah, however, had a different intention concerning the Gentiles. What was it?

6. (Mark 7:24-30) Why didn’t Jesus heal the Gentile woman’s daughter as soon as she asked? How did she persuade him to act at once?

8. (John 4:5-26) Why was it surprising that Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink?

9. How had the two groups of people represented by Jesus and the Samaritan woman differed on the matter of worship? How and when could they be reconciled?

10. (John 10:11-16) Jesus speaks of other sheep that are not part of the current fold he had assembled, stating that these other sheep would be joined to the existing fold to create one flock behind one shepherd. How does this prophecy fit the assimilation of Gentiles into what had been a strictly Jewish faith (cf. Ephesians 2:14-22, Galatians 3:26-29)?

11. (Matthew 28:18-20) How did the great commission include the prospect of preaching to Gentiles?
Lesson 10: *His Impending Monarchy*

Perhaps the Jews were beginning to think of them as mere legends. The elders had long taught that the kingdom of God would be established by a Messiah, a deliverer who would come according to prophecy and bring with him freedom. While they waited, the messiah came and they could not recognize him. The freedom they had in mind was from Roman oppression. God was more interested in rescuing them from a greater oppressor, the devil.

1. (Daniel 2:31-45) The prophecy of the kingdom of God appeared very dramatically in the dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar, for whom Daniel was employed as an interpreter. Fill in the chart below as it describes the events leading to the establishment of God’s kingdom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEQUENCE</th>
<th>BODY PART</th>
<th>KINGDOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Head of gold</td>
<td>Babylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Chest and arms</td>
<td>Medo-Persian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Belly and thighs</td>
<td>Greek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Legs of iron</td>
<td>Roman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. When was God predicting the establishment of his kingdom? What would be its duration?

God would establish his kingdom during the reign of the fourth kingdom and it would endure forever.

3. How sure was Daniel? What is the case if he is mistaken (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)?

He said the dream is certain and its interpretation was sure. If he was wrong, then he was a false prophet and did not speak for God.

4. (Malachi 3:1) Before the Lord would come to establish his kingdom, what must happen first?

The messenger of God would come first to prepare the Lord’s way and turn the hearts of the people back to God.

5. (Matthew 11:7-19) Did this happen? How?

This came to pass in the person of John the immerser.

6. (Matthew 4:23) What did Jesus teach when he went into the synagogues of the Jews? Explain the importance of this phrase.

He preached the gospel of the kingdom, meaning that the good news about his offer of salvation extended logically to the church’s role also.

7. (Matthew 6:10) Had the kingdom been established when Jesus took to the mount to preach this great sermon?
8. (Matthew 10:1-7) What was to be the theme of the apostles’ preaching under the “limited commission”?

9. (John 6:10-15) Why were the people interested in making Jesus a king that day? What kind of king did they have in mind? Why did he resist, if this is what he wanted all along anyway?

10. (Matthew 16:13-19) Christ’s mission from God was to build the kingdom, according to Daniel’s prophecy. What does he claim he is building in this discussion with the apostles?

11. How might “the gates of Hades” have prevailed against the construction of this body (cf. Acts 2:22-28)?

12. (Matthew 16:21-27) To a carnally-minded person, the ideas of crowning a king and his death would not fit together. How did Jesus bind them together?

13. (Matthew 16:28) Explain the importance of this prophecy concerning the kingdom.

14. According to the latest census, how many people who lived in the first century are still alive today? What is the conclusion then?

15. (Luke 24:19-27) Was the Jewish rejection of Jesus a surprise to God and an occasion for postponing the kingdom?
Lesson 11: *His Last Days of Freedom*

The Lord’s last week was spent in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, where the Jews had long expected their Messiah to arrive for his coronation. As the final week commenced, that happened, but not the way they anticipated. Christ spent his last days of freedom in humility, continuing to teach and prepare his apostles for his death and ultimate departure.

1. (Luke 19:29-48) Contrast the reaction of the disciples to that of the Pharisees when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt. Why could the Jewish leaders not put a stop to these things?

   The disciples praised him and rejoiced, calling him the King by God's authority. The Pharisees demanded that Jesus rebuke them for this uproar and the claim he was the king, but he refused. The Jewish leaders feared the people who considered him a true prophet and were attentive to his teaching.

2. What prediction did he make about the future of the city?

3. (Matthew 22:15) The Pharisees knew they had to change the minds of the people in order to destroy Christ’s influence. How did they attempt to defeat him?

4. (Matthew 22:16-22) How did he answer the Herodians, who swore allegiance to the Roman government, and the Pharisees, who contended for its overthrow, when they asked about paying taxes?

5. (Matthew 22:23-33) What was wrong with the Sadducees’ attempt?

6. (Matthew 22:34-45) What happened after Jesus answered the lawyer’s question about the greatest commandment?

7. (Matthew 24:1-3) What prediction made the disciples ask Jesus these three questions?
8. (Matthew 24:4-35) Would certain signs foretell the destruction of Jerusalem? What did Jesus recommend the disciples do when they perceived these signs?

9. (Matthew 24:36) Would there be any signs to predict the second coming of Jesus?

10. (Matthew 26:1-16) Contrast the attitudes toward Jesus held by the woman with the spikenard and Judas Iscariot.

11. (John 13:1-17) What was Jesus teaching when he washed his disciples’ feet? How can we show we have learned the lesson?

12. (John 14:15-18) How were the disciples to prove their love for Jesus? Whom would he send then?

13. (John 14:26) What was the Holy Spirit’s mission?

14. (John 17:20-21) What kind of unity did Jesus wish for his followers?

15. (Matthew 26:31-36) What promise did Peter and the others all make to Jesus?

16. (Mark 14:32-42) What did Jesus say to Peter when he found him sleeping?
Lesson 12: *His Trial and Crucifixion*

*It becomes obvious how corrupted the Jewish and Roman governments were in Jerusalem during the days of Christ. An innocent man was not quite convicted, but executed anyway because the people demanded it.*

1. (Matthew 26:47-56) Why did Judas kiss Jesus?

2. Who cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant (John 18:10)? Was Jesus appreciative of his effort?

3. How did Jesus expose the cowardice of the Jews? How did his own disciples fail as well?

4. (Matthew 26:57-68) How did the Jewish leaders attempt to convict Jesus?

5. What caused the high priest to tear his clothes? What sentence did they wish against him for this alleged blasphemy?

6. (Matthew 26:69-75) Describe the three denials that Peter makes of Jesus:

   a. He says that he does not know Christ when asked by a certain servant girl.
   b. He then exclaimed his ignorance of the messiah when another asked him later.
   c. When asked a third time, he began to curse and swear that he did not know Jesus. Just then a rooster crowed and he realized he had failed as prophesied and went out and wept bitterly.

7. (Matthew 27:1-10) Why could the Jewish leaders not put Jesus to death the moment they decided to do so?
8. Describe the exchange between a remorseful Judas Iscariot and the Jewish leadership.

Judas felt badly and so decided to return the 30 pieces of silver they paid him to betray Jesus. He admitted his sin and then threw down the money at their feet when they refused to accept it. Judas then went and hanged himself.

9. What became of the money?

The money could not lawfully be replaced in the treasury because it had bought a man’s blood, so it was used to buy a potter’s field for the burial of strangers.

10. (Matthew 27:11-26) What did Jesus answer Pilate, when he asked him if he were the king of the Jews? What did he answer the Jewish chief priests and elders? What emotion had motivated the Jews to arrest Jesus?

Jesus affirmed his royalty to Pilate but refused to answer the Jews at all, for they were doing this thing because of their envy.

11. Why did the people ask for Barabbas to be released instead of their prophet, Jesus?

The Jewish leaders had persuaded the multitudes to ask for the murderer instead.

12. What did Pilate’s wife recommend? What dramatic act did Pilate perform to show his feelings toward the Jewish request?

Pilate’s wife encouraged him to have nothing to do with Jesus, for she had been tormented by a dream concerning him. Pilate then took water and washed his hands to signify that Christ’s blood was upon the Jews’ hands, not his.


He was stripped of his clothing and attired in a purple robe to mock his royal claims. He was then crowned with twisted thorns and given a reed as a scepter, as the soldiers mocked him in false worship. They spat upon him and struck him with his scepter.

14. (Matthew 27:32-56) What was the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?

Golgotha.


Jesus promised him that they would be together that day in Paradise because he was sincerely penitent of his sins. Jesus had power to forgive sins personally while on Earth.

16. What happened when Jesus yielded up his spirit?

The veil of the temple was torn in two and the earth quaked while graves opened.
Lesson 13: *His Resurrection and Ascension*

Perhaps the devil thought Christ’s mission was ended in defeat there at Golgotha. Perhaps, like most Jews, the devil thought God’s plan was to put Jesus on David’s literal Jerusalem throne and have him rule Israel from there. But Christ’s intention of bruising Satan’s head was still in the process of accomplishment. That bruise on the Lord’s heel was nothing compared to the blow administered when the ladies found an empty tomb later that weekend.

1. (Matthew 27:57-61) Each of the four gospel accounts reveals some uncommon information about Joseph of Arimathea, who retrieved and buried the body of Jesus. Give that information from each passage:
   a. Matthew 27:57-60:
   b. Mark 15:42-46:
   c. Luke 23:50-54:
   d. John 19:38-41:

2. (Matthew 27:61-66) Why did the Jews request his tomb be guarded?

3. (Matthew 28:1-10) When did Mary and Mary Magdalene appear at the tomb? What incident surprised them and the guards?

4. What announcement did the angel make? Whom did they meet on the way?

5. (Matthew 28:11-15) How did the chief priests deal with the guard’s story?
6. (Luke 24:8-12) What did the other disciples think of the ladies’ story? What did Peter do?

7. (Luke 24:13-32) Why did these two disciples fail to recognize Jesus? Why were they so disappointed in recent events (see especially verse 21)?

8. How did Jesus attempt to move their minds in the right direction about his kingdom and mission?

9. (Luke 24:33-43) What did the apostles think when they first saw the resurrected Christ? How did he try to eliminate their doubts?

10. Who was the last to believe (John 20:24-31)? What did he require?

11. (Luke 24:44-49) Was the Jewish rejection of Christ a surprise to God? How do you know?

12. What last instruction did Christ give them? When was this accomplished?

13. (John 21:1-14) How did Jesus appear a third time to his disciples?

14. (John 21:15-23) What commission did Jesus give Peter? What sad prophecy did he also make?

15. Did Jesus promise that John, the disciple whom he loved, would not die? Explain.

16. (Matthew 28:16-20) List the four actions of the great commission.

   1.  
   2.  
   3.  
   4.  

