



Discipleship Lesson 10 1Q 2014

Discipling the Nations

SABBATH

Memory Text: “For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Isaiah 56.7

Thoughts? What does this text mean?

Why is God’s house to be called a house of prayer for all nations?
What was the purpose of the Jewish Temple?

Does the phrase “my house” refer to the Jewish Temple?

Was the Jewish Temple the actual house of God? Or was it symbolic of God’s true house?

From Paul:

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's HOUSE built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord. And in him YOU too [you all] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22.

From Peter:

“As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- YOU also, like LIVING STONES, are being built into a SPIRITUAL HOUSE to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet 2:4,5.

Where does God actually dwell? What is God’s true house? Then, in light of this, what does it mean that God’s house is to be a house of prayer for all nations?

Read first paragraph, “Christ’s message...” thoughts?

Why is the gospel of Christ for everyone?

- Because all humans are part of the same creation, descendants of Adam, infected with the same condition and in need of the same remedy
- Because God’s government operates upon design law, protocols upon which life is constructed, and these laws, these protocols, work in all lives whether the persons realize it or not, just like gravity
- Because only in harmony with God’s design is there life, why?



What is the message of Christ that is to go to everyone?

How would you describe it?

It is the gospel of Jesus so what was His message?

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; (John 14:6-11)

Why is this good news? What is the war over? 2Cor 10:3-5 – the knowledge of God. Satan lied about God and those lies broke the circle of love and trust and broken love and trust results in fear and selfishness, we are infected with hearts deviant from God's design.

What is the need, the purpose, the reason that Christ perfectly revealed the Father? To dispel lies and win us back to trust? So in response to this, what are we to do? What is our work?

⁸ Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

²⁹ Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." JN 6:28,29

What does this mean, to believe in the one he sent? To believe what? To believe that He paid some legal price? Is that what Jesus said? Or would it mean to believe in Him means to believe in what He taught, who He was, the truth He revealed about the Father and the Father's methods and principles, and thereby be won back to trust in Him and His Father?

What did Jesus say is the result of this restored trust with the Father?

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do... I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world." John 17:3,4,6

So Jesus is the perfect revelation of God, to destroy the lies of Satan and win us back to trust, that we might truly know God and thus, in trust, be renewed back to God's original ideal and live eternally.

What did Jesus teach regarding God's law and government?

⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." MT 22:37-40

What is the law of God according to the gospel of Jesus? The law of love! And how does that



function?

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read John 12:20-32:

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

What do you hear about the gospel of Jesus in this passage? What is the gospel in this passage?

Do you hear God’s law, the law of love, described in this text? What do you hear? Do you notice Jesus uses nature to teach truth, in addition to Scripture – He uses the integrative evidence based approach.

Here is this passage from my paraphrase:

^{John 12:20} Now some Greeks who had come to worship at the Feast, ²¹ came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked, “Sir we would sure like to see Jesus. Would it be possible to meet him?” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; and Andrew and Philip together went and told Jesus.

^{John 12:23} Jesus replied, “It is now time for the Son of Man to have his character and nature fully revealed. ²⁴ I tell you the clear truth, unless a kernel of wheat gives itself up to be buried and die, it will remain a lone and a solitary seed. But if it surrenders itself and dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who practices the principle of survival of the fittest, and loves his own life so much that he will kill in order to preserve it – will ultimately destroy himself and lose his life. But the man who loves others more than himself and is willing to give his life freely so that others may live is back in harmony with the principles of love, upon which life is based, and will preserve his life and live eternally. ²⁶ Whoever wants to serve with me in my healing ministry must practice my methods, value my principles and follow my ways. All those who serve with me will be with me where I am. My Father will fully heal, restore, and exalt all those who truly serve with me in this way.



John 12:27 “My heart is heavy, but what shall I say? ‘Father, deliver me from this hour?’ No, my entire purpose for being here is to come to this very hour. ²⁸ Father, may your true character and nature be fully revealed and may Satan’s lies about you be fully exposed!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have revealed my true character and nature, and will reveal it again.” ²⁹ The crowd, with their darkened minds couldn’t understand the voice; some thought it was thunder, but others thought an angel had spoken to him.

John 12:30 Jesus said, “This voice was to strengthen your faith, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for the infection of selfishness and sin in this world to be fully diagnosed and revealed as destructive; now, Satan, the prince of this selfishness world will be driven out into the open, out of the shadows, out from behind his lies and distortions about God and God’s methods, out where all can see him as the murderer he truly is and thus out of the hearts of all who love me. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all intelligences throughout the universe to me.”

Thoughts?

What is the gospel of Jesus? Jesus described it in His sermon on the mount:

MT 5:3 "Blessed are those who are humble in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- The kingdom of God is the kingdom of humility, the kingdom of service, the kingdom of giving, the kingdom of love!

MT 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- The kingdom of God is the kingdom of tender hearts, the kingdom that is heartbroken at cruelty, unkindness, pride, the kingdom that mourns as it sees people living for the kingdom of the world!

MT 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- The kingdom of God is the kingdom of meekness, the kingdom that does not seek to serve self, the kingdom that puts others first, the kingdom of beneficence!

MT 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- The kingdom of God is filled with people hungering to be like Jesus, longing to see God’s face, who have developed minds and hearts which love truth, who love to lift up others, who care more about doing good, doing what’s right than what happens to themselves.

MT 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- The kingdom of God is forgiving, merciful, kind. The kingdom of God is compassionate to the homosexual, the abortionist, the prostitute, the murderer. The kingdom of God longs for their healing, their restoration in righteousness, their friendship!



MT 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

- The kingdom of God is pure, holy and true – no fear, no selfishness, no cruelty, no unkindness!

MT 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

- The kingdom of God is a unifying kingdom, a kingdom that seeks to reconcile, to heal, to restore, a kingdom of peace. A kingdom reaching out to all peoples, of all nations, of all races, of all cultures, of all backgrounds – through all time to restore oneness with God for all eternity!

MT 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- The Kingdom of Heaven – is at war with the kingdom of the world – the kingdom of the world will use its methods of coercion, control, intimidation, beating, imprisonment, sanction, legislation – But blessed are you who are persecuted for presenting the truth about God in love and leaving others free, for living like Jesus lived – For yours is the kingdom of heaven!

What is the message of Jesus? Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” John 18:36

What is the message that is to go to the world? God and His Kingdom are not like kingdoms of this world. God’s kingdom is the kingdom of love, truth, freedom, righteousness, purity, holiness. It is the kingdom upon which life is built to operate. God is not the source of death; God is the source of life!

Are we taking the message of Jesus to the world, or are we taking a false message, a distorted message, a message that misrepresents God and His kingdom to the world?

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “Ancient prophets foretold...” thoughts?

Is converting people to a scripturally based faith the same thing as converting people to the kingdom of God?

According to the Christian Encyclopedia there are 34,000 different Christian groups all claiming their beliefs are scripturally based. Are all those groups doing God’s will? Are all those groups accurately revealing God’s kingdom?

Did the Jews 2000 years ago base their religion on scripture? Were they part of God’s kingdom? Jesus said they were of their Father the devil.



How can it be, that people can value Scripture, cite Scripture, base their beliefs on Scripture and still crucify Jesus, burn people at the stake, shoot abortion doctors, stone the prostitute, burn witches, picket homosexuals, teach that God will use His power to torture and kill the disobedient?

Because they use Scripture piecemeal and separated from the other evidences God has given to anchor our understanding.

Jesus used Scripture, but also used nature and experience and harmonized all three in His teachings. Do we present the truth as Jesus did? Then we must integrate all three threads, the distorted views of God occur when the three threads are separated.

What about the idea that Jesus is the way to the Father, that there is no other name under heaven whereby men can be saved? What does this mean? Does it mean people must hear the life history of Jesus earthly sojourn? Does it mean they must take an affirmative stand accepting Him as their Savior? Does it mean they must have certain rituals, such as baptism done? Or does it mean that whoever is saved it is only saved because of what Jesus has accomplished, whether the individual realizes it or not?

Did Enoch get baptized? Did Elijah know the earthly life story of Jesus? Were they saved through some other path, or was Jesus the only path to the Father?

How could they be saved without knowing the earthly history of Jesus? How could they be saved without baptism?

Or were they baptized? What is true baptism, dunking the body in water, or immersing the mind/character/heart with the Holy Spirit for internal transformation and regeneration?

Did Enoch and Elijah experience renewal of heart and character? Did they have the law written on their hearts?

What do you make of Paul's comments in Romans, notice first Paul says in Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Then he goes on to say this in chapter two:

¹² All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, **who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,** ¹⁵ **since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts,** their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) Romans 2:12-15



What is the new covenant?

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

- ¹¹ No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest. Heb 8:10,11

What is the new covenant, writing the law on the heart, and when that happens, who do they know? They know God and what did Jesus say is life eternal? Knowing God.

Wait a minute – is Paul saying people can know God without hearing the gospel message, without the Scriptures being presented? How, by nature, God's divine nature has been seen in what he has made so that men are without excuse.

And what is seen in nature? God's design protocols for life, His law, His methods, and thus His character, which is the law of love, the protocol of giving. And nature reveals that only in harmony with this design is life possible. Those who see this in nature and love it and choose it open their heart to God's Spirit, even though they do it ignorantly, yet the Spirit still heals them.

Then how do they come to God through Christ, how is Jesus the only way if they come through nature?

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:15-17

And Jesus procured the Remedy to cure our condition. Thus, when people see God's character in nature, open their hearts to the movement of the Spirit, they come through the evidence Christ has provided when Christ made earth, and the Spirit takes what Christ achieved in their behalf and reproduces it in them, thus they are healed by Christ. Christ is the way and means of restoration to God, even for those who have yet to hear about Him.

Thoughts?

This is an historic SDA view:

Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles. Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness; before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the



missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly, those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God. {DA 638.2}

Don't you love it to know that God isn't some arbitrary being who requires some facts be understood, some ritual be enacted, some word be spoken before a person can be saved?

Read third and fourth paragraph, "Israel was to be the light..." thoughts?

What impaired Israel from fulfilling their mission of being lights to the world about the true nature of God and His kingdom?

- False ideas about God
- Failure to move past symbolism
- Believing ritual had saving power
- Pride and selfishness
- Legal religious constructs
- Misunderstanding God's kingdom and law, believing God operated like human governments and required appeasement
- Believing the rituals were primarily a means to save themselves, i.e. a religion focused on personal salvation, rather than realizing that it was all designed to reveal God to them

Do we struggle with any of these problems today?

Do we:

- Have False ideas about God
- Fail to move past symbolism
- Believe ritual had saving power
- Struggle with pride and selfishness
- Promote legal religious constructs
- Misunderstand God's kingdom and law,
- Believe God operates like human governments and requires appeasement
- Teach a religion focused on personal salvation, that puts self at the center, rather than keeping the truth about God at the center

Thoughts?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "Christ wanted His own..." thoughts?



What about us? Do we need to wake up? Is the church asleep? Remember the parable of the 10 virgins, both the wise and foolish were asleep.

What puts us to sleep?

- Boredom
- Fatigue
- Anesthesia

Boredom – the long delay, get stuck in routines, forget our mission, and get caught up into a boring, uninspiring religious routine. Our minds shut down, we quit growing, quit advancing, quit working for God’s kingdom, we become complacent and fall asleep.

Fatigue – we get busy with our responsibilities in the world, or perhaps the church, and exhaust ourselves and stop our growth and ministry

Anesthesia – wine – not mere physical alcohol and drugs, but spiritual wine, false doctrines that put people to sleep – the wine of Babylon, the idea that God’s kingdom is like Rome, imposed law, which requires God to punish, but no worries, you can accept a legal payment, made by Jesus and you are saved. Boom, go to sleep now, all is secure.

Read bottom green section, “What about us?...”

Thoughts? What advantages did the Jews have?

- Sabbath
- Feast Days
- Sanctuary service
- Inspired writings
- Prophets
- Jesus Himself in person
- The 10 Commandments
- The civil and health laws

How were these advantages? How were they turned to be a disadvantage? What advantages do we have?

- The Inspired record
- History of Patriarchs, Prophets, OT, Jesus, Dark Ages
- Science
- The 10 Commandments
- Modern technologies in spreading the message
- Understanding of God’s design and methods
- Other advantages



Are any of these turned to disadvantages? How?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Some of the leaders’...” thoughts? Why? What caused their animosity and hatred of Jesus?

They also said He had a devil and was a Samaritan, what was the purpose of saying such things? To discredit Him and undermine other people’s views of Him and get others to not listen to Him.

Is this strategy used today? How? Calling people a heretic, or...

And Jesus countered their attacks by pointing out what mattered was character not ethnic origin. Does this apply today? Does character matter or is it genetics? What is more important, character or day of worship, character or denominational affiliation, character or diet?

Are we vulnerable to be just as biased and prejudiced as they, only our biases are related to doctrines and church affiliations and religious practices, yet we still fail to see what matters is character. Are we like Jesus, has fear and selfishness been replaced with love and trust?

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “God’s final work...” thoughts?

What is the message that is to penetrate all racial, ethnic, national and geographic boundary?

It is the message of the Creator – the first angel, to worship the Designer, a call to design law, the protocols upon which life is constructed, and a refocusing on God’s true character and methods of love. This penetrates all these divisions. But Roman imposed law causes division, focuses on self, and stirs up contention.

It doesn’t matter ones race, geographic location, denomination – every human needs to breath, drink water, eat food, there are design laws upon which life is created, break those laws and suffer the painful results. We are called to present God as creator and His law as the protocols of life and show people how only in harmony with God’s design is there life, health and happiness.

We are to call people to reject the dictator views of God, to reject the imposed law construct the penal substitutionary lie that has infected Christianity and obstructed Christ’s return.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1-3