

3rd Quarter, 2014 “The Teachings of Jesus”

Lesson 2: The Son

SABBATH

“ ‘For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many’ ” (Mark 10:45, NKJV).

Why didn't Christ say “to give His life to appease His angry Father”? or “to use His blood to blot out entries in the Heavenly record books”?

What is implied by “to give His life as a ransom for many”?

The lesson, beautifully states, “Sooner or later everyone has to answer this same question [‘Who do you think I am?']. Each has to decide, individually, who Jesus is. It doesn't help to repeat what other people say or believe; the answer must be genuinely our own personal belief. And, of course, on that answer the destiny of every human being hangs.”

It needs to be personal, doesn't it? We must find, examine, & reconcile the evidence God has given us. We must think for ourselves. God wants us to come and reason with Him the things we don't understand. We must be teachable, without being gullible. He leaves us free to “experiment” with His laws, so we can be convinced in our own minds that He is, indeed, Love, and therefore, trustworthy.

SUNDAY

The lesson does a great job of compiling Scriptural support for Christ's “Son of Man” designation and the evidence of Him being “fully human.” In the bottom section it asks the question, “Why is it so important for us to know that Jesus was fully human?” Any thoughts??

Yes, it's important to know that He was “... in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Heb. 4:15. It's important to know He is interceding with us and for us ALONG WITH His Father. It's important to know that He got tired, hungry, lonely, sad, etc. In our class, however, we have examined something far more important than these, though. Any thoughts??

How important is it to know that Christ suffered the torment of Calvary in his humanity, and though He had the power to stop the abuse[John 13:2-4], He used that power to wash dirty feet and not to save Himself?? This tells us everything about the character of Christ AND His Father [see the entire gospel of John].

MONDAY

The lesson, again, does a great job of compiling Scriptural evidence of Christ's Divinity.

Is it important that we recognize Christ as the "Son of God"? Is it important that we acknowledge that the Father and Son were in "unity" of character, mission, Love, methods, Law, and even "wrath"?

How many people did Christ condemn to Hell? How many did He compel to listen to His teaching, or to obey Him? How many did he put to death? How many laws did He impose while here on Earth?

As we understand the "great controversy", did Satan allege equality with God or with "Michael"?

Since Satan's attack on Creation, the universe witnessed mankind out of harmony with God's government. They saw the image of God virtually obliterated in man's mind, and the image of Satan written there. Might there have been angels or other intelligent beings thinking that, even though Christ displayed incredible power in the Creation, His government was actually represented here on Earth via mankind? Might they have wondered if God and/or His Son were provoked to "anger" they might be wiped out?? Considering these questions then, why is it important we recognize Christ as the "Son of God"?

TUESDAY

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man Luke 5:17-26.

17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." 21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

What does the above passage tell us about Christ's understanding of His divine nature?? The Jews understood that only God could forgive sin[s], so without blaspheming, Christ has basically told them, "I am Immanuel [God with us]".

I often neglect to consider how smart Christ was on Earth. He was continually drawing lessons from history, nature, Scripture, science, and his listeners experiences, in order to bring them better revelations of the natural Law of God. He was subtle, crafty, mysterious, overt, confrontational, kind, sympathetic, direct; all when He needed to be and He was NEVER wrong about which teaching methods to use.

I've learned, over the years, to use different techniques to motivate patients to comply with the laws of tissue healing and regeneration, but my education has come at the expense of being wrong more times than I would like to admit, and I still have much to learn. Christ did it right the first time, every time, and never lost patience, even with the stubborn church leadership.

From the lesson: "Jesus claimed the divine prerogative to forgive sins. He also said that He Himself " 'will sit on the throne of His glory' " (Matt. 25:31, NKJV) and judge all the nations, deciding the eternal destiny of each one, something that rests on God's authority alone. How much more could He have done here to reveal who He really was?"

Will Christ actually "judge all the nations, deciding the eternal destiny of each one..."? Might there be a better way to phrase this??

WEDNESDAY

The lesson references John 8:58 [**58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"**] as a conclusive statement about Christ's divinity, and it is. I find his statement in verse 51 even more interesting. **51 Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.** Any thoughts on either of these passages??

The lesson also, correctly, points out that Jesus accepted worship from believers as a tacit admission that He was God on Earth. Why is this important? Compare two different Law constructs.

When I was young, I didn't understand the implications of Christ being fully human and fully God. Anyone care to talk about what this means to them??

THURSDAY

The first two paragraphs in Thursday's lesson are right on point. Read them.

Christ, best defined his mission in Matt 20:28, stating: **"28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."**

How else has it been defined in Scripture [see Heb 2:14, 2 Tim 1:10, 1 John 3:8] ?? How can we define it now??

The wheels come off [? editors] in the 3rd paragraph of the lesson. “Why did Jesus have to die? It was because He voluntarily took our place and bore the punishment of our sin. We are all sinners (Rom. 3:10–12) and, as such, deserve eternal death (Rom. 6:23). The price for our salvation was so high that only the life of the Son of God was enough to pay for it.”

Rightly understood, the ideas in this passage are mostly correct. I take exception to the idea that all sinners *deserve* death. We are, certainly, all terminal in our condition, and if un-remedied, will die, but does that mean we deserve it? We didn't voluntarily become sinners.

What does this passage imply from its author? We need to be able to reason through difficult pieces like this one and the one below.

“The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. In all the universe there was but one who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again into harmony with Heaven.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 63.