

LESSON 1: THE TWO AUTHORITIES IN OUR LIVES

GOD AS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN OUR LIVES

Read **Acts 15:1-29**

- ▶ How did the Jews feel about eating meat with blood?

Read **John 6:47-58**

- ▶ What is Jesus telling them they must do to have eternal life?
- ▶ Considering Acts 15:1-29, how do you think the Jews responded to this command?

Read **John 6:66-69**

- ▶ What is the response of the Jews?
- ▶ What is the response of His disciples?

The key to our lives is that God is the One we look to as the ultimate Authority in our lives.

- ▶ Who or what is currently the ultimate authority in your life?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR ME?

- ▶ How do you know what Jesus Christ wants for us?

There are two authorities that Jesus uses to show us what He wants us to do. The first one is the **Bible** and the second one is the **Holy Spirit**. We will look at the Bible first.

THE BIBLE AS OUR AUTHORITY

Read **Matthew 22:29-33**

- ▶ Who does God say that He is?

Principle: Jesus just based His doctrine of eternal security and resurrection on the verb tense of "I Am". Since this is true, we must regard every word in the Bible as extremely authoritative in our lives.

Read **John 10:34-35**

- ▶ What does Jesus say about the scriptures?
- ▶ What does it mean to you that the scriptures cannot be broken?

AUTHENTICITY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Read 2 Peter 3:15-16

- ▶ What does Peter say about the letters of Paul?

Read 2 Peter 1:20-21

- ▶ According to these verses, where was the Bible originated?

MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

Read Hebrews 4:12

- ▶ What does this verse tell us about the Word of God?
- ▶ What do we have to do in order to see God's Word have this effect in our life?

HOW TO MEDITATE

Read Joshua 1:8-9

- ▶ What do these verses state that we should do to be careful to do according to all that is written in it?

THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTS OUR LIFE

Read Acts 13:2

- ▶ How did the church in Antioch know that God wanted them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work He had planned for them?

Read Ephesians 1:15-17

- ▶ What two things did Paul pray that God would give the people in the church?

HOW GOD SPEAKS

Read 1 Kings 19:11-13

- ▶ How does God speak to Elijah?

LESSON 2: MOTIVATION IN LIFE

- ▶ What is your motivation in life?
- ▶ How do you determine what the motivation in your life should be?
- ▶ If you understood a clear message from the Bible and the Holy Spirit, would you be motivated to obey these two authorities?
- ▶ What is the correct motivation for your life?

Read Galatians 6:16

- ▶ What does this passage have to say about us as Gentiles?

Read Exodus 3:14-15

- ▶ What does God say that His name is?

Read Exodus 9:16

- ▶ What is our purpose in being raised up?

Read Exodus 9:7, 12, 34

- ▶ What differences do you see in these three exchanges between God and Pharaoh?

The purpose for every one of us is for our lives to bring glory to God's name.

Read Exodus 20:24

- ▶ Where does God say that He will come and bless us?

Read John 15:4-5, 7-8

- ▶ What is essential in order to bear much fruit?
- ▶ What do these verses tell us to do so that the Father's name will be glorified?

Read Leviticus 22:31-32

- ▶ What does God ask of us in these verses so that we do not profane His name?
- ▶ What is it that allows sanctification to occur?

Read *Numbers 6:22-27*: Aaron's blessing and benediction.

- ▶ In verse 27, what are we told needs to happen for us to be blessed?

Read *II Samuel 7:1-14* and summarize.

Read *I Kings 8:43*: Solomon's prayer when dedicating the temple.

- ▶ What does Solomon pray will happen to all the peoples of the earth?
- ▶ What about the people of Israel?

Read *Psalms 31:3*

- ▶ Why does God lead and guide me?

Read *Psalms 89:24*

- ▶ What should be your motivation if you want God's power in your life?

Read *Matthew 10:22*

- ▶ If we live our lives in such a way to bring glory to God's name, what will be the result for us?

BENEFITS FOR US

Read *Matthew 19:17, 29*

▶ When Peter states that the disciples have left everything to follow Jesus and ask what will there be for them, what is Jesus' answer?

Read *I Corinthians 3:10-15*

▶ What happens to the treasures we build up for ourselves? What happens to the treasures we build up for God?

Read *John 14:13-14*

▶ If we want our prayers to be answered, how are we to pray? What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name?

LESSON 3: INTERCESSORY PRAYER

REVIEW: The motivation for our life should be to glorify God.

PRAYING GOD'S WILL

Read *Ecclesiastes 5: 1-3*

- ▶ What are the instructions in these verses about how we should pray?

Read 1 *John 5:13-15*

- ▶ What are the two requirements we need to insure that God will answer our prayers?

Read *Matthew 16:13-19*

- ▶ How do I know God's will?

POWER IN PRAYER

Read 1 *John 5:13-15*

- ▶ How do I find power in my prayers?

Read *James 5:16-18*

- ▶ What do these verses compare us to Elijah?
- ▶ What did Elijah control?

Read 1 *Kings 18: 20-21; 27-29; 36-38, 41-46*

- ▶ Do we have this same power in our prayers? How did Elijah know that he had this power?

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT PRAYS

Read *Romans 8:26-28*

- ▶ How does the Holy Spirit pray for us? Why does the Holy Spirit need to pray for us?
- ▶ How do we know that everything always works for good?

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO PRAY?

Read Acts 13:2-3

- ▶ Who is telling them what to pray?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2

- ▶ Who/What is telling them what to pray?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-3, Psalm 46:10, and 1 Kings 19: 11-13

- ▶ How must we approach God in order to be able to hear Him?

LESSON 4: HEARING GOD SPEAK

Introduction: God speaks to us through a variety of ways. It is imperative that we learn to hear and discern God's voice.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH ANGELS

Read *Daniel 9:20-23*

- ▶ Who speaks to Daniel in these verses to give him insight and understanding?
- ▶ Who are the angels that we know by name in the Bible?

Read *Daniel 10:12-13*

- ▶ How long did it take Gabriel to get to Daniel to answer his prayer?
- ▶ Why did it take so long for Gabriel to get there?

If we want to hear God, we must accept the fact that it may take a period of time.

Read *Acts 8:26, 29*

- ▶ Who led Phillip in these verses?
- ▶ What are the two ways Phillip was directed?

There is a tendency for us to sometimes think that angelic speaking is done only in the Old Testament. This verse clearly shows us angels speak to people in both the New Testament and Old Testament.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH DREAMS

Read *Mathew 2:12-14*

- ▶ How did Joseph know that God wanted him to go to Egypt?
- ▶ Was it very clear to Joseph what God wanted him to do?

Read *Genesis 37:5-11*

- ▶ How did Joseph know what God had planned for his future?
- ▶ Did his brothers and father have a clear understanding of the message of the dream?

Two things to remember about God speaking through dreams:

1. God can speak through dreams
2. There will never be difficulties in understanding the meaning of the dream.

GOD SPEAKS DIRECTLY AND LOUD

Read *Acts 9:1-7*

- ▶ How does God speak to Saul in these passages?
- ▶ Did Jesus speak in a loud voice or a still, small voice?

At times God will speak to us in a loud manner. This usually occurs when we are not walking with the Lord. We seldom see God speak in this manner in the Bible. This will not be the primary way God speaks to you.

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH OTHER PEOPLE

Read *Acts 11:27-28*

- ▶ Who tells the people in Antioch that a great famine was coming?
- ▶ By whose authority does he speak this message?

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

Read *Mark 6:49*

- ▶ How does God use this circumstance to speak to the disciples?

Read *2 Peter 1:20-21*

- ▶ How can we know that what we learn in circumstances is truly from God?

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH A LOW WHISPER

Read *1 Kings 19:9-19*

- ▶ How does God speak to Elijah?

Read *Philippians 4:6-7*

- ▶ What two things do these verses tell us that God guards?

OBEDIENCE IS MANDATORY

Read *John 14:15-21*

- ▶ These verses teach us that if we love God we will...
- ▶ How is the Holy Spirit described in these verses?
- ▶ In verse 21, what does God promise He will do if we walk well with Him?

LESSON 5: MEDITATION

Scripture points out two important principles concerning prayer and hearing from God.

1. We must go to a place of solitude and quietness
2. We must be able to meditate on God's Word

Read *Matthew 3:13-17*

- ▶ What does baptism represent?
- ▶ How did this relate to how Jesus lived after baptism and how we should live after salvation?

PRAY TO RECEIVE DIRECTION

Read *Luke 6:12*

- ▶ What are the two things we are told about how Jesus prayed?
- ▶ Why does Jesus need to go to a desolate place?
- ▶ Why does Jesus pray all night?
- ▶ Why does Jesus not get the directions automatically and quickly?

PRAY IN TIMES OF GRIEF

Read *Matthew 14:10-13* and *Matthew 26:36-44*

- ▶ How does Jesus respond to the grief in His life?

NEED-DRIVEN PRAYER LIFE

Some principles we can learn from Jesus' prayer life:

1. It was not at a preset time of day.
2. The time spent in prayer varies by His Father's direction and not His own direction.
3. Jesus did not follow a prescribed ritual.
4. Jesus did not follow an agenda or rules, but it was based on need.

HOW DOES JESUS PRAY?

Read *Matthew 14:23*

- ▶ What time of day did Jesus pray?

Read *Mark 1:35*

- ▶ What time of day did Jesus pray in this verse?

Read *Isaiah 30:15-16*

- ▶ Where do we find strength when praying in the desolate place?

PROMISES IN THE BIBLE

- ▶ How can we learn to know and trust God's promises to us?

MEDITATION

Joshua 1:8, Psalms 1:2, Psalms 49:3

Two types of Scripture:

- 1. Didactic: Doctrine or teaching—i.e. Paul's teaching in NT**
- 2. Narrative: Story of people's lives-i.e. The Gospels and majority of OT**

You need to meditate on both types. In order to meditate, you must look at the forest (The main point) and the trees (the details) in the passages.

In a narrative you will look at the details and those details will lead to the main point. In a didactic passage you will look at the teaching inside the passage, and the teaching will lead to the main point. There is a main point in each passage. What we need to do is to look for the details. If you do not get the details then you will miss the main point.

We will practice together how to find the trees and the forests using Matthew 2:1-12 in discipleship this week. Take a look at the passage beforehand and we will go over it in details together!

LESSON 6: ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

HOW SALVATION WORKS

Read John 16:7-11

- ▶ What is the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation?

THE PARABLE OF THE SEEDS

Read Matthew 13:18-23

- ▶ Explain the different responses to the gospel that are illustrated in this parable.

Read Acts 2:21 and Joel 2:32

- ▶ What do these scriptures say about salvation?

DOUBTING MY SALVATION

Most Christians doubt their salvation at some point in time. Just because you doubt your salvation does not mean that you are losing your salvation.

Read I Peter 1:3-7

- ▶ How has He caused us to be born again?

To hope is defined as “to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence” (dictionary.com).

Read Psalm 37:23-25

Nothing is bigger than God. Since he holds your salvation, nothing can ever cause you to lose your salvation. You do not hold on to Him; He holds on to you through His power.

SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

- ▶ How do we become sealed with the Spirit?
- ▶ What does it mean to be sealed?

Read Romans 8:39

- ▶ How does this verse relate to the assurance of your salvation?

Read 1 Peter 3:21

- ▶ Carefully read the whole passage. What does this say about baptism?

YOU CANNOT LOSE YOUR SALVATION

Read Hebrews 6:4-6, 9

- ▶ Who enlightens us?
- ▶ Carefully examine this verse. Are these verses talking about Christians or non-Christians?

SIN AFTER SALVATION

Read 1 John 1:8-10 and 1 John 3:6

- ▶ What about people that sin?

Read James 4:4-6 and Hebrews 12:5-11

- ▶ What two things help us not to continue to sin?

Read 1 John 5:16, 1 Corinthians 11, and Acts 5

- ▶ What do these verses say about sin?

LESSON 7: TRINITY

INTRODUCTION

The Trinity is difficult to study because we as humans cannot understand it, and it is never explicitly taught in the Scriptures. It is critical to believe in the trinity because every cult denies part of the Trinity. They usually believe that God the Father is only Jehovah in the Bible, that Jesus is not God, and the Holy Spirit is neither a God nor a person. If you understand the concept of the Trinity, then the cults cannot get a hold of you.

PROOF OF THE TRINITY

Read Genesis 1:26-27

- ▶ How does this verse prove that the Trinity exists?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- ▶ Why are you baptized in all three parts of the Trinity?

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

- ▶ What does this passage have to say about the Trinity?

THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD

Read Psalm 139:1-6, Psalm 139:7-10, and Psalm 139:13-16

- ▶ What characteristics of God are shown in these verses?

JESUS

Read Matthew 24:36

- ▶ What characteristic of God is Jesus limited to in this passage?

Read Mark 6:45-47

- ▶ What characteristic of God is Jesus limited to in this passage?

Read John 4:6

- ▶ What characteristic of God is Jesus limited to in this passage?

This is what Jehovah's Witness use to show that Jesus isn't God. They will get you to agree with them that the description of God in the Bible is that he knows everything, He is everywhere and He is all powerful. But this description does not apply to Jesus.

The answer to the Jehovah's Witness is very simple. If these aren't true in Jesus's life, He can't die for you and cannot be your redeemer.

JESUS IS GOD

Read John 14:7-9, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:13-20, and John 8:58

- ▶ How do these Scripture define Jesus as God?

The Jehovah's Witness claim that Jesus was just a good man. You must either say that Jesus was God, or He was a liar and a lunatic. You cannot be a good man and run around telling people you are God when you are not.

Read Philippians 2:6 in as many versions as you have available.

- ▶ What does this passage have to say about Jesus being God?

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

- ▶ But Jesus never sinned, so why was He baptized?

Read John 12:49

- ▶ Why would Jesus give up being God? How is this vital to the salvation plan?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

Read Matthew 4:1

- ▶ How do we know the Holy Spirit is God?

Read Matthew 12:26-32

- ▶ How does this scripture prove that the Holy Spirit is God?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

Read Ephesians 4:30

- ▶ How does this illustrate that the Holy Spirit is a person?

Read Acts 13:2

- ▶ What does this verse tell us about the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER

- ▶ What is the role of the different parts of the Trinity in prayer?

SUMMARY

The scriptures teach and exemplify that there is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three are God. All are part of the God Head. So although the Trinity is never explained, it is clearly taught.

The Trinity has an impact in my prayer life and an impact in keeping me out of a cult. If you understand those things, then you will not have a cult bother you.

LESSON 8: THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

The church. Some think of it merely as the building that you go to worship in every Sunday and Wednesday. It is a physical place. Others believe that the church is made up of all the Christians in the world. What do you believe is the church? Who is included? Are there criteria to be involved in the church?

JESUS' DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH

Read Matthew 16:13-19

- ▶ What is the church based upon?
- ▶ What are the requirements for being a member of the church?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:13-17

- ▶ Do you have to be baptized to be part of the church?

WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Now that we have a description of how Jesus defined the church and who the members of the church are, we will take a look at the makeup of the church and its function in our lives.

Read Colossians 1:16-18

- ▶ Who is the head of the church?

Read Proverbs 11:14, 24:6, and 11:4

- ▶ So if Christ is the head of the church, then why do we vote on anything?

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

There are two purposes within the church that can be summed up as vertical and horizontal. The vertical pertains to one's relationship with God, while the horizontal aspect involves relationships with other people.

Read Zechariah 8:20-23, Matthew 18:19-20, and John 15:6-8

- ▶ What are some aspects of the vertical purpose of the church?
- ▶ What are some areas of our lives where we can show others Christ?

Read Romans 15:5-7

- ▶ What are some aspects of the horizontal purpose of the church?

- ▶ Is it possible for Christians to never disagree?

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

- ▶ What are our responsibilities as Christians in the church?

Read Romans 12:4-5

- ▶ What kind of gifts does God give to the church?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- ▶ What is our responsibility to those in church leadership (Pastor and staff)?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3

- ▶ What is the responsibility of the church leadership to the members?

Conclusion

There needs to be a unity in the church based on the understanding that the church is composed only of people that have been convicted and surrounded by the Holy Spirit. We believe that Christ is the head of the church, and even though we vote, we are voting to find what the head of the church says. We have a horizontal responsibility to encourage and disciple each other, but even more importantly we have a vertical responsibility to have a strong relationship with God. We need to live in such a way to use our gifts to impact others. Our lives should be so different that people will gravitate to us and ask what is it that we have and they do not, what is it that is different about us, and how they can have it, too?

LESSON 9: SIN NATURE - THE TRUTH: NOT TWO NATURES BUT ONE

INTRODUCTION

We know we are born with a sin nature, but after we become saved, do we now have two natures? As is commonly seen in commercials and movies, many believe that we have the good nature (or the angel on one shoulder) telling us the right thing to do while the bad nature (or the devil on the other shoulder) tries to talk us into doing the wrong thing. This belief that we have two natures is wrong! We can only have one nature in us.

THE FALL OF MAN

Read Genesis 2:17 and 3:1-7

► If Adam and Eve do not have a sin nature, how did they end up sinning? What are the steps that Satan used to convince them to sin?

DEATH OF THE OLD NATURE

If you examine the morality of the godly men of the Old and the New Testament you will see a drastic difference. In the Old Testament people like Abraham, Jacob, and David all had moral issues. They were married to several women and could not control their sexual desire. On the other hand, the godly men of the New Testament like Paul, Peter, and James did not have affairs or have children out of wedlock.

Read Romans 6:6-12

► Why is there such a difference in morality from the Old Testament to the New Testament?

THE NEW NATURE

Read Romans 8:8-11

► What is this new nature?

Read Romans 7:24-25

► Why is Paul struggling between the law of God and the flesh?

Read Romans 8:8-11 and 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

► How do Christians still sin if the old man is no longer in us and the Holy Spirit dwells in us?

CONCLUSION

The desires themselves are not sin. Believing the lies of the enemy and no longer listening to God is sin. Desires for the wrong things follow after we decide to believe the lies. If you have a

desire in your life that is moving you away from Christ, do not fight the desire. Figure out what it is, in the word of God that you do not believe that has created the desire.

Read Ephesians 5:18

- ▶ How do we stop sinning and believing the lies of the enemy?

LESSON 10: BROKENNESS

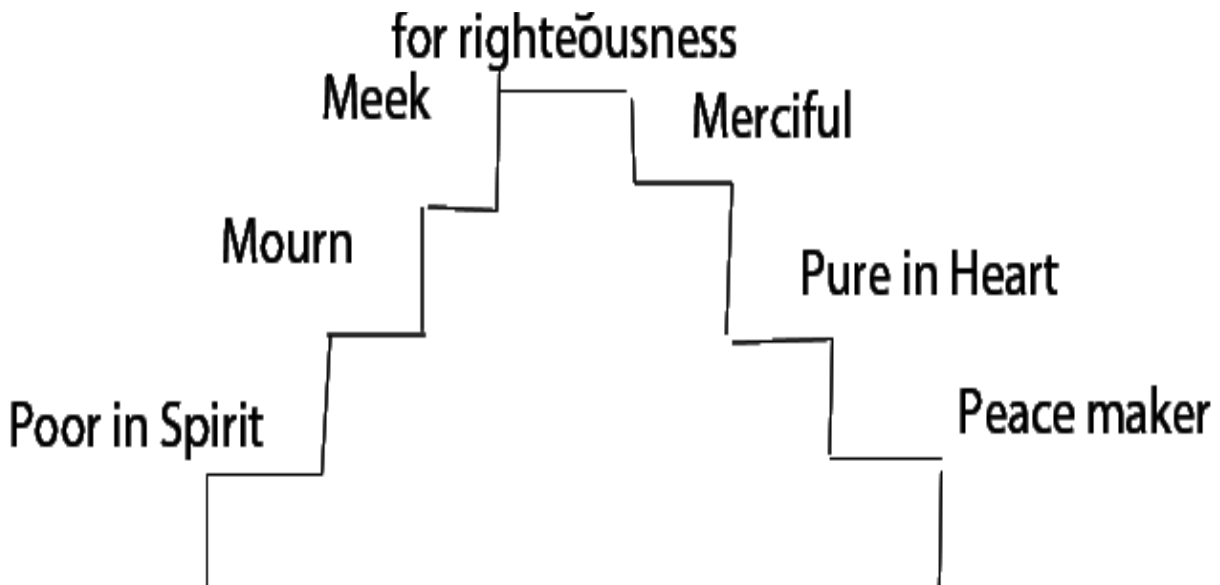
INTRODUCTION

At some point in your life, Christ will break you. There has been an argument in the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, a Dallas Theological Seminary journal, that the Sermon on the Mount is not for Christians because it is too difficult to live for even Christians. This is correct in that it is impossible to live out the Beatitudes. As Christians, we must come to the place where our Christian life is not difficult to live but impossible on our own. This is why Jesus gave us the Beatitudes.

THE BEATITUDES

Read Matthew 5:3-9

The Beatitudes can be seen as stair steps. First you climb up the stairs of being poor in spirit, mourning, and being meek. On the other end of the staircase is a stark contrast of mercy, pure, and peacemakers.



- ▶ What does verse 3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” mean?
- ▶ What does verse 4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” mean?
- ▶ What does verse 5, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” mean?
- ▶ What does verse 6, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” mean?

- ▶ What does verse 7, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy” mean?
- ▶ What does verse 8, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” mean?
- ▶ What does verse 9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” mean?
- ▶ Why do we experience brokenness?

WALKING ON WATER

Read Matthew 14:22-32 and Mark 6:47-52

- ▶ What is Jesus’ response to Peter’s falling away?

Read John 15:5

- ▶ What does this verse say about success in our lives?

JESUS QUESTIONS THE DISCIPLES

Read Matthew 16:13-28

- ▶ How does Peter respond to Jesus’ question? Is this in a similar manner as the previous passage where Peter walks on water?
- ▶ If Peter recognized Jesus as the Messiah, then why does he rebuke Him?

MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION

Read Matthew 17:1-5

- ▶ Does Peter follow the same pattern in this passage?

THE CRUCIFIXION

Read Matthew 26:31-35 and Luke 22:31-34

- ▶ At this point has Peter reached a point of brokenness?

Read Matthew 26:50-54 and Luke 22:51

- ▶ Is Peter successful in these verses?

Read Matthew 26:57-59

- ▶ Is Peter successful in these verses?

Read Matthew 26:69-75 and Luke 22:61-62

- ▶ Is Peter successful in these verses?

AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Read John 21:15-23

- ▶ How does Peter respond to Jesus' questions this time?

PENTECOST

Read Acts 2:22-24

- ▶ How does Peter's brokenness previously mentioned change his reaction to hard times?

CONCLUSION

If you look back at the stair steps at the beginning of the lesson, you can see that Peter went through every step throughout his life. He realized when Jesus looked him in the eyes right after Peter denied Him that he was poor in spirit and could not do it on his own. He then mourns because he hurt Jesus. He shows that he has a teachable spirit when Jesus tells him that he will die for his beliefs. He hungers after the truth and is merciful, pure in heart, and a peacemaker throughout the rest of his life by preaching salvation to others and willingly accepting the imprisonment and death he faced for Christ.

We all must go through a similar situation before we can live out the Sermon on the Mount. Have you had this moment of brokenness yet? Are you depending on Christ for everything, or do you still think you can do it on your own? This is the first step to being broken. God will continue to pursue you and break you. Everyone's situation is different, but we must learn to depend on God for everything before He can work effectively through us.

LESSON 11: REPENTANCE VS. REMORSE

INTRODUCTION

As we talked about last week, God sometimes has to break us to ultimately bring us closer to Him. How we respond to God's rebuke is vital in determining if we are truly broken or not. In order to be broken, we have to be repentant and not just remorseful over what we have done. Although there are many similarities between repentance and remorse, there are two key differences which can be seen when we look at the lives of Peter and Judas.

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PETER AND JUDAS

► From your knowledge of Scripture, how are Peter and Judas similar?

- ❖ Matthew 4:18-19, Luke 6:12-16
- ❖ Matthew 26:24, 34.
- ❖ Matthew 26:47-50 and Matthew 26:73-74
- ❖ Matthew 27:1-5 and 26:75

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PETER AND JUDAS

Read Matthew 27:5 and Acts 2:14, 37-41

► How are their consequences of betrayal different?

REPENTANCE AND REMORSE

Read 2 Corinthians 7:10

► How can sorrow be different and lead to different consequences?

Read Matthew 27:3-5, John 21:17, Matthew 26:75 and Acts 2:14, 37-41

► What kind of sorrow is seen in these passages?

REMORSE

Read Matthew 27:3

► Why is Judas upset in this passage?

REPENTANCE

Read Luke 22:60-62

► Why is Peter upset in this passage?

Read Psalm 51:1-4

► What kind of sorrow is seen here?

CONCLUSION

There is no way that a person can be saved unless they are repentant. If you have a sin that controls you, and you find yourself weeping, crying, and moaning, over it but never turn away

from it, then you are remorseful but not repentant. The Holy Spirit must speak to your heart, and it is He that makes you sorry or repentant. With true repentance comes victory.

Read 1 John 3:6

If you are walking in the Spirit, then the moment you sin, He will convict you. If it is a long time before you are bothered by your sin, then you are probably not walking in the Spirit. At some point when the Holy Spirit speaks to you, if you are really repentant, then you will be sorry for your sin. There is no way that when God Himself indwells you that it does not have a profound impact on your life.

Today if you hear His voice, then respond. You cannot be saved without hearing His voice. We have made Christianity so easy. In the end it has to be the voice of God in your heart to be saved. If a person is repentant, then they will change. There must be a consistency of righteousness. If there is a consistency of sin and that stays until you die, then you were never a Christian. True repentance brings about life-long changes that bring you closer to God and His will for your life.

LESSON 12: TRIALS IN LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Some men are really good at speaking and can talk people out of the truth simply with their words. An example of this is many of the TV preachers today. They are great at rhetoric, but can lead masses away from the truth. The common basis of their teachings is that if you have faith in Jesus then you will never have any money problems, health problems, or trials in your life. These preachers sometimes also speak heresy by trying to add things to the gospel. Some believe that Jesus Christ died to suffer in hell to pay penalty for our sins. Paul clearly states that if you add anything to the blood of Jesus Christ then you are guilty of heresy and are cursed by God. It is important to not be swayed by great speakers, but cling to the truth of God's Word. Today, we are going to look into what Scripture has to say about trials in our lives.

TRIALS

Read James 1:2-4

- ▶ What do these verses say about trials?

Read Hebrews 12:2

- ▶ How do we handle the trials in our lives?

PURPOSE OF TRIALS

Read Proverbs 17:3 and Psalm 66

- ▶ Why do we go through trials?

Read Romans 5:1-4, Romans 8:18, and Ephesians 2:4-7

- ▶ What do these verses say about the reason for trials?

IS THERE A LIMIT TO OUR SUFFERING?

Read Genesis 15:13

- ▶ Is there a limit to our suffering?

Read Genesis 50:19-21

- ▶ How can our trials change our lives?
- ▶ What two truths regarding trials are illustrated in these verses?

CAUSES OF TRIALS

Read Matthew 24:9 and James 5:13-15

- ▶ What are some of the causes of trials?

WHEN TRIALS SEEM TO OVERCOME US

There are times in our lives when trials are so painful and difficult that it seems impossible to utilize your faith. God has a special way of handling this.

Read Romans 8:26-28

- ▶ What do we do when we cannot seem to withstand the trial?

CONCLUSION

All Christians will face trials for various reasons. We will not have joy in the trial, but in the coming joy promised by God. There is a time frame for our trials, and no matter how bad they are we cannot lose our faith because the Holy Spirit will intercede for us. Ultimately, we will endure the trial and God will show us His goodness by blessing us and others, while bringing us to greater maturity in Christ.

LESSON 13: SATAN

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS SATAN'S PLAN?

Read John 10:10

- ▶ According to this verse, what is Satan's plan?
- ▶ What is God offering you?

Read 1 Peter 5:6-8

- ▶ These verses tell us that Satan is seeking someone to devour, but how does Satan choose who he really wants to go after?

DEMONS ARE ORGANIZED

Read Daniel 10:13

- ▶ How does this verse demonstrate that the demons are organized?

WHAT CAN STOP DEMONS?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9

- ▶ How do I become the ultimate spiritual entity for warfare that I need to be for Christ?

Read Matthew 12:29

- ▶ How are we able to conquer Satan?

Summary of Romans 6-8

1. Death of old nature. (chapter 6 – there is only one nature in you)
2. What it was like before I was a Christian? (chapter 7)
3. Role of the Holy Spirit in my life. (chapter 8)

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Read Galatians 5:16 and Matthew 5:13-16

- ▶ How do I impact Satan in this kingdom?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

- ▶ Who is reversing what God wants? (The enemy)

- ▶ How do I bind him, and how do I begin to affect him?

Read Acts 16:6-10

- ▶ How do these verses impact us today?

DO THE DEMONS KNOW YOU?

Read Acts 19:15

- ▶ How can you live a life so that the demons know your name?

LESSON 14: ANGELS AND THEIR ROLE IN MY LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Read 2 Kings 19:35 and Daniel 10:13-14

- ▶ How powerful are the angels?

Read Daniel 12:1

- ▶ How are the angels organized?

Read Jude 1:9

- ▶ Why were they disputing over the body of Moses?

ANGELS CAN APPEAR IN YOUR LIFE

Read Hebrews 13:1-2, Matthew 22:30, Genesis 6:1-4, Hebrews 1:13-14, Matthew 18:10, Acts 8:26-29, and 1 Corinthians 11:4-10

- ▶ What do these verses tell us about the attributes of the angels?

ANGELS ASSIST US

Read Psalm 34:7

- ▶ What limits the ability of the angels to assist us?

Example: Read Acts 12:5-8

- ▶ *What in this story had to be done in order for the angels to be able to assist Peter?*

APPLICATION TO TODAY

- ▶ How can we apply this information to our lives today?

LESSON 15: WITNESSING

GREAT COMMISSION

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- What is your responsibility as a Christian when it comes to witnessing?

PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING

1. _____

- a. John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and 1 John 3:16
2. _____

- a. Romans 3:23
3. _____

- a. Romans 6:23 and Genesis 2:15-16
4. _____

- a. Ephesians 2:8-10, John 1:12, Romans 10:9-13

SUMMARY OF WITNESSING

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Read John 16:8-11

► What does this passage say about witnessing and salvation?

COMMON QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. *"The Bible is full of errors"*

a. _____

2. *"I don't want to be saved because there are too many hypocrites in the church."*

a. _____

3. *"I think that Jesus was a good man, but I don't know about what you are saying."*

a. _____

4. *"With all the evil in the world, I have trouble believing God is good"*

a. _____

5. *"I don't buy all that creation stuff, I think that we just evolved."*

a. _____

LESSON 16: SPIRITUAL GIFTS

PURPOSE AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Read Jeremiah 1:5

- ▶ When is your purpose in life given to you?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 and Psalms 139:13-16

- ▶ When are your spiritual gifts given to you?

Read Ephesians 4:11-13

- ▶ According to this passage, why does God give us spiritual gifts?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-12

- ▶ According to this passage, why does God give us spiritual gifts?

WISDOM VS. KNOWLEDGE

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-12

- ▶ What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?

FAITH

Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-12, Matthew 17:20, and Luke 17:6

- ▶ What is the gift of faith?

HEALING

Read 1 Corinthians 12:10-14, 14:39

- ▶ Is the gift of healing still active? If so, how is it used today?

PROPHECY

- ▶ What is the gift of prophecy? How is it used today?

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS

- ▶ What is the gift of discerning spirits and how is it used today?

GIFTS OF TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

Read 1 Corinthians 14:2-4, 14:21, 14:39, and Acts 2:6-8

- ▶ Is the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues still active? If so, how is it used today?

APPLICATION OF YOUR GIFTS

Read Acts 22:1-3

- ▶ How was Paul gifted?

Read Acts 4:13

- ▶ How was Peter gifted?
- ▶ Why would God send them in direct contradiction to their giftedness?

BREAKS FROM USING YOUR GIFTS

- ▶ Is it ever acceptable to not use your gifts?

LESSON 17: HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP PART 1

JONATHAN AND DAVID

Read 2 Samuel 1:25-26

- ▶ What kind of relationship did David and Jonathan have?

“Your love to me was more wonderful than the love of women”

Read 1 Samuel 31:8, and 2 Samuel 21:12

- ▶ How did David feel after Jonathan died?

DIFFERENCES IN MEN AND WOMEN

Read 1 Peter 3:7

- ▶ What does this verse say about how men should treat women?

Read Colossians 3:19

- ▶ What does this verse say about relationships in marriage?
- ▶ What are some differences in men and women?

In general, women are more relational than men.

Men and women also communicate differently (Waffles and Spaghetti).

Men want to try to fix everything, but women just want them to listen while they vent.

Women are romanced in their soul, where they feel emotions. Men, on the other hand, are romanced physically.

Women pray more passionately and in more detail.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEN AND WOMEN

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

- ▶ How are the responsibilities for men and women different in the marriage relationship?

The husband has two responsibilities...

1. _____

2. _____

LOVE ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

Read Ephesians 5:21-33

- ▶ Are there differences in the way we love?

There are four Greek words for love: **Storge, Eros, Philia, and Agape.**

Storge: _____

Eros: _____

Philia: _____

Agape: _____

- ▶ What kind of love is used in the relationship of a husband and a wife?

MEN AND WOMEN WANTS IN MARRIAGE

Men want _____.

Women want _____.

CONCLUSION

Men and women are very different and have different roles in marriage. Men will never be able to fully understand women and vice-versa. This is why same sex friendships are important.

Wives be careful when you are sharing with other women that you do not share too much and disrespect your husband. Husbands be sure that you are not devaluing your wife to other men.

Wives should respect their husbands, and husbands should love their wives. We will go into more details next week!

LESSON 18: FAMILY: HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP PART 2

HUSBAND AND WIFE RESPONSIBILITIES

Read Ephesians 5:33

- ▶ What are the different responsibilities of the husband and the wife?

Husbands are called to _____.

Wives are called to _____.

PERSONALITY

There are four general categories of personalities...

❖ Sanguine: _____

❖ Melancholy: _____

❖ Choleric: _____

❖ Phlegmatic: _____

- ▶ What are some of the benefits of having different personalities?
- ▶ So, what can we do about the differences in personalities?

SEXUALITY

- ▶ How is sexuality different between men and women?

Men are romanced in their _____.

Women are romanced in their _____.

- ▶ What happens when children are thrown into the marriage?

- Should there be any limit to the sexuality?

DIFFERENT LOVE LANGUAGES

Different love languages:

- words of affirmation
- quality time
- receiving gifts
- acts of service
- physical touch.

RESPECT VS. LOVE AND GIVE VS. TAKE

Women are desperate to feel _____.

Men are desperate to feel _____.

PRACTICAL STEPS

Here are some practical steps to help improve your relationship with your spouse.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

LESSON 19: PARENTING AND CHILDREN

HUSBAND AND WIFE RESPONSIBILITIES

Read Psalm 139:13-16 and Jeremiah 1:5

▶ What two things does God say in these passages about children?

1. God _____ children.
2. God _____ children.

Read 2 Kings 20:1-5

▶ Can you lengthen or shorten your days?

YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT YOUR OWN

Read Jeremiah 1:4-5

▶ What does God say about children that leads us to believe that our children are not our own?

CHILDREN'S ACTIONS

▶ When should you discipline the actions of your children?

RESPONSIBILITIES AS PARENTS

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8

▶ What three major things are said in this verse about parenting?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Read Ephesians 6:1-2

► What two things are children commanded to do? What is your role in that?

1. _____ your parents.
2. _____ or _____ your parents.

PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLINE

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

CONCLUSION

You put yourself in their life. You affirm their character. You correct their lack of character. You discipline them. You teach them to love and respect you. You give them truth. You take advantage of those opportunities when they are there. Make sure you let them know when they make a mistake that God can still redeem their life and do something amazing with them.

LESSON 20: DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

PRINCIPLES BEHIND DIVORCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Deuteronomy 21:10-14

- ▶ What truth about relationships between man and woman are found in this passage?

Read Deuteronomy 24:1-4

- ▶ What does this passage say about divorce?

Read Mark 10:4-8

- ▶ How has the way God handles marriage/divorce change from the Old Testament to the New?

Read Ezra 10:1-3

- ▶ What is the basis of divorce in this passage?

Read Malachi 2:14-17

- ▶ What does this passage say about divorce?

PRINCIPLES BEHIND DIVORCE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Read Matthew 5:31-32

- ▶ What does this passage say about divorce and remarriage?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-17

- ▶ What does this passage say about remarriage?
- ▶ From what we have discussed, what are the two rules concerning divorce?

1. I can divorce my spouse if _____.
2. I can _____ but I cannot leave my spouse.

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- ▶ What happens when real world situations come up that do not fit into those two rules?

Examples:

1. *A Lady came into my office one day. She said that every night before they went to bed her husband would take out his 367 magnum revolver and put one shell in and spin the cylinder and cock it and put it up against her head. Then he would pull it back and decock it, put it in the drawer and then they would go to sleep. Her question to me was "can I leave him?"*
2. *A lady came into my office and said that whenever my husband wants sex and I refuse then he throws me on the bed and he rapes me. His argument was that you are my wife; your body is not your own so it is not rape. You are to yield to me. He pulls scripture up and pointed out where her body is not her own. She was consistently and constantly raped weekly when he wanted it and she did not.*
3. *Another lady came into my office and said that her husband beat her 2 to 3 times a week. He was smart and would not hit her on the face but on the body where it could not be seen.*
4. *Then I had a lady come in and said that her husband was having sex with her daughter. She asked me if she should stay with him.*

► What are the principles about divorce and remarriage that we have seen already?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

SEPARATION

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1-6

- ▶ What does this passage say is the basis for separation?

FORGIVENESS

Read 1 John 1:9

- ▶ If we disobey these principles for divorce, can we be forgiven?

LESSON 21: FASTING

REASONS FOR FASTING

Definition of fasting: Giving up at least one meal to spend extra time praying and seeking God. This could be through prayer or reading the Scripture; the Holy Spirit will direct you on what to do. If you just skip a meal and do not seek God, you are just dieting and not fasting.

- ▶ In the following passages, what are the reasons for fasting?

Read Acts 13:1-2

- ▶ What did the Holy Spirit tell the church to do while they were fasting?

Read Acts 14:20-23

- ▶ What did Paul and Barnabas do as part of their appointing of the elders?

Read Matthew 9:14-15

- ▶ What did Jesus say about fasting in these verses?

Read Esther 4:15-16

- ▶ Why did Esther feel the need to call the nation of Israel to fast? Why did she not ask them to pray?

Read 2 Samuel 1:11-12

- ▶ Why do David and his men fast in this situation?

Read Ezra 8:21-23

- ▶ Why does Ezra ask the people to fast and pray?
- ▶ What was the result of the people fasting and praying?

SUPERNATURAL FASTS

Scripture only records three supernatural fasts of 40 days.

1. Exodus 34:27-28 – Moses fasted 40 days
2. 1 Kings 19:7-8 – Elijah fasted 40 days
3. Matthew 4:1-2 – Jesus fasted 40 days

HOW WE SHOULD FAST

Read Matthew 6:16-18

- ▶ What do these verses teach us about how we should act when we fast?

Read *Zachariah 7:4-5*

- ▶ What is God's concern about the manner in which these people fast and mourn?

There are two major things that will drive fasting in your life:

1. Issues in your life.
2. Consistency in your life.

Regarding prayer- consistent, regular fasting in your life will increase your ability to hear God. You can hear Him without fasting, but fasting will maximize your ability to concentrate and focus on Him and improve your ability to hear Him.

There are no hard and fast rules about fasting given in the Bible. It does not give a time or length. It may be need-driven or it may be a regular, consistent part of our lives.

We will discuss together some suggestions about how to fast at the end of the discipleship lesson!

LESSON 22: CALVINISM VS. ARMINIANISM

REVIEW: You cannot lose your salvation once you are really saved. The grieving of the Holy Spirit with God's discipline will prevent you from continuing in sin.

NOTE: This lesson is going to be less of a discussion and more of an informational lesson. There are a variety of beliefs about Calvinism and Arminianism. This lesson is not intended to cause arguments or tension in the group. Rather, this lesson is designed to give you the facts about what we as a church, believe based on Rev. Osborne's understanding of what the Bible has to say about the subject.

TULIP

TULIP is an acronym often used to illustrate the five major points of Calvinism. Some Calvinists believe all five points while many others believe only a few of these points.

T= Total Depravity The idea is that you cannot come to Christ on your own. You do not have that ability. You are not smart enough or spiritual enough.

U=Unconditional Election When God elects and chooses you; it is not based on anything that you do but completely based on God's choice. It is not because you are more or less of a sinner than someone else. It is simply based on God.

L= Limited atonement The blood of Jesus Christ does not apply to the entire world.

I= Irresistible Grace When God speaks, you cannot say "no." You may hear some say that He cannot be sovereign if you have the ability to say no to Him.

P= Preservation of the saints This means that once you are saved, you are always going to be saved.

- ▶ Which one of these points stick out to you?

TOTAL DEPRAVITY/ UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

Definition: You cannot come to Christ on your own. When God elects and chooses you, it is not based on anything that you do, but completely based on God's choice.

Read Romans 1:19-20

- ▶ What do these verses say about who has knowledge of God?

Read John 6:44, John 16:8-11, 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5, and Hebrews 3:7

- ▶ What do these verses say about what is needed for salvation?

LIMITED ATONEMENT

Definition: The blood of Jesus is only for the elect not the whole world.

Read 1 John 2:2, John 3:16, and 2 Peter 3:9

- ▶ Who did Jesus die for according to these scriptures?

IRRESISTABLE GRACE

Definition: When God speaks, you cannot say no.

Read John 1:11-12, Matthew 23:37, Matthew 26:20-25, Matthew 13:19, Matthew 22:14, and Romans 1:18-22

- ▶ What do these verses have to say about free will?
- ▶ How does this reflect on the sovereignty of God?

LESSON 23: CHURCH ORDER

THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Read Colossians 1:15-20

- ▶ Who is the head of the church?

OFFICES OF THE CHURCH

Read Ephesians 4:11-12

- ▶ What different offices of the church are seen in this passage and how are they lived out today?

Apostles: _____

Prophets: _____

Evangelists: _____

Shepherds/Teachers/Pastors: _____

Read Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 5:17-19

- ▶ What characteristics should be found in the elders of the church?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5

- ▶ What three characteristics of elders in the church are seen in this passage?

Read Revelation 1:20, James 5:13-14, and 1 Timothy 4:13-14

- ▶ How are the elders to rule well?

Read Acts 6:1-4

- ▶ What is the role of deacons in the church?

WOMEN IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Read Titus 1:5-9

- ▶ What does scripture say about women in leadership of the church?

Read Romans 16:1

- ▶ Why do we see a female deacon in the Bible?

LESSON 24: TITHES AND OFFERINGS

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF MONEY

Read Matthew 19:16-21 and Luke 19:8-10

- ▶ What principle about money is seen in these passages?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

- ▶ What principle about money is seen in this passages?

Read Malachi 3:1-18

- ▶ What principle about money is seen in this passages?

HOW CHRISTIANS USE MONEY

Read Psalm 41:1-3 and James 2:14-17

- ▶ What do these passages say about the use of money by Christians?

REWARDS IN HEAVEN

Read Matthew 25:35-40, Mark 9:41, and 1 Corinthians 3

- ▶ What does scripture say about giving?

LESSON 25: GOVERNMENT AND OUR CITIZENSHIP

BIBLICAL RESPECT FOR GOVERNMENT

Read Romans 13:1-7

- ▶ Is this passage only for the times when we have a great leader or for all times?

To understand this passage, it is important to consider the background. Paul is writing this from prison in Rome. He is in prison for being falsely accused of burning Rome when Nero the ruler of that time actually burned the city. Peter and Paul were both accused of burning Rome because they were disliked by many of the Romans. Peter was crucified, and Paul, because he was a Roman citizen and could not be crucified, was later beheaded.

Read Romans 13:1

- ▶ What does this passage say about every authority in our lives?
- ▶ What is man's ultimate goal in life? What does the Bible say and what does society say?
- ▶ What is God's view and ultimate purpose of authority?
- ▶ Why would God allow such horrible leaders like Nero to be in authority?

Read Romans 13:3

- ▶ Do we only fear the authorities when we do wrong or do we fear them all the time?

Read Romans 13:4-5

- ▶ What does this passage say is one of the purposes of government?
- ▶ What is our responsibility in government?

Read Romans 13:6-7

- ▶ What does this passage say about our responsibility to government?

DISOBEYING THE GOVERNMENT

Read Acts 4:8-22

- ▶ Is it ever okay to not obey the government?