

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 52 – THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we attempt to summarize the main teachings of Christ while on earth. Christ in His earthly ministry gave three long discourses, (1) The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew chapters 5-7. (2) Olivet Discourse, Matthew chapter 24 and 25; and (3) the Discourse in the Upper Room, John chapters 13 to 16, and probably 17; plus many other shorter messages.

Someone has said that Jesus touched on 18 subjects in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matt. 7:28-29, "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

Luke 4:32, "And they were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power."

Luke 4:22, "And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth."

In some ways His teachings were new, revolutionary and contrary to human reasoning.

I. JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT SALVATION

In His conversation with Nicodemus He told him that he had to be born again, John 3:1-15.

In His talk with the Samaritan woman He made her thirsty for Himself, the living water.

In John 6, He revealed Himself as the true bread that could satisfy true soul-hunger.

In Luke 7:47-48, Jesus taught that He had the power to forgive sins of the penitent.

In John 10, the discourse on the Good Shepherd, Jesus revealed that He was the only door to salvation, and that no man could be saved except through Him.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus gave an invitation for the labors and weary laden to come to Him for salvation and soul-rest.

This wonderful salvation invitation is further expanded in Luke 14:16-24 to include the wanderers on the highways and byways – the poor, maimed, halt and the blind.

The best loved of all salvation stories is the recovery of the Prodigal in Luke 15.

II. JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

In Matthew 5:33-48 we are taught (1) not to swear (2) to turn the other cheek (3) to love enemies.

In Matthew 6:1-4; 19-21, about giving (1) to be done secretly (2) an eternal investment.

Jesus taught a great deal about prayer – Matt. 6:5-13, Lk. 11:1-13; John 14:13,14; 16:23-24. It was to be (1) done in secret (2) continuous (3) unlimited in scope and power.

Jesus taught that we must forgive others before He will forgive us, Matt. 6:14,15; 5:23,24.

Jesus practiced fasting and taught it: Matt. 6:16-18; Luke 4:2, before the Temptation.

Jesus cautioned against setting our affections on the necessities of life but taught that these (daily needs of food, shelter and clothing) would be provided by the Lord if we sought first the Kingdom of God, Matt. 6:25-34.

Jesus taught that it was necessary to confess Christ as Lord openly, Matt. 10:32,33; John 9:38.

Jesus instructed His converts to go home and witness to their relatives first, Mark 5:19.

Jesus' teaching rang with assurance of salvation to the saved, John 3:16, 18, 36; John 5:24.

A great deal of the Upper Room Discourse speaks of the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit who guides, conducts, energizes and strengthens the believer, John 14:16-26.

Jesus did not promise His believers and disciples an easy time but mentioned persecution freely and promised help and grace for every trial, John 16:1-6; Luke 12:11,12.

III. JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT PHARISEES AND FALSE TEACHERS

Jesus was very loud in His denunciation of false teachers and hypocrites.

In Matthew 23:13-36, He says, “woe unto you, Scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites” eight times, verses 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27 and 29, calling them blind guides and fools. In John 8:44, Jesus told them that they were of their “father the devil” – strong language.

In Matthew 16:6, Jesus warned His disciples to “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” who taught false doctrine denying the resurrection, etc.

Jesus taught that these false church leaders did their utmost to make converts but these were “twofold more the child of hell” than they were, Matt.23:15.

Matt. 7:15-20 is a warning from the Savior to beware of false prophets that are ravening wolves dressed in sheep’s clothing.

Luke 20:45-47 is a clear warning to the disciples to beware of the Scribes.

IV. JESUS’ TEACHING ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Jesus taught the right use of money and treasure in Luke 12:16-34. The treasure was not for the rich man’s personal gratification for he was a “fool”; the true treasure (verses 33,34) was that which was sent to the Lord ahead of time.

When the woman gave two mites in Mark 12:41-44, He commended her very highly for she had not given of her abundance but of her penury.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus taught us to use our God-given talents for His glory.

In Luke 19:11-27, Jesus gave to His disciples the command to “occupy till I come” by using the pounds that He gave us for the Lord’s glory and extension of the kingdom.

Christians are stewards of their money, time, talents, gifts and opportunities.

V. JESUS’ TEACHING ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL

Our Lord spoke of hell and eternal punishment at least 70 times in the Gospels.

Matthew 24:41, “Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

It was Jesus who gave us the clearest picture of torment in hell in Luke 16:19-31.

Mark 9:42-48 is a solemn warning to avoid hell where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched, verses 44, 46, 48.

In the Upper Room Discourse Jesus left the reassuring Word that He was going away for a little while to prepare the mansions and return to receive us, John 14:1-3.

To the dying repentant thief Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise."

Jesus pictured heaven as a home with the Father God, Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2.

Jesus came from heaven to die and bring many sons home to heaven, Heb. 2:10.

VI. JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT FRUIT BEARING

John 15:1-17, the heart of the Upper Room Discourse deals with the vine and the branches; with the desire that we should bear "fruit"; "more fruit"; "much fruit."

In the parable of the barren fig tree in Luke 13:6-9, the tree that does not bear fruit was to be cut down, destroyed and cast into the fire.

In Matt. 7:16-20. Jesus teaches that "by their fruits ye shall know them."

In the Parable of the Sower and the Seed in Matt. 13:1-23, Jesus expresses His desire that each Christian should bear fruit – some thirtyfold; others sixtyfold; others one hundredfold.

As Christians we should be purged in order that we will bear more fruit, John 15:2. The purging is a bitter experience of "digging and dunging" (Lk. 13:8), but essential.

Luke 6:43-46, we as Christians are to bear the fruit of the Spirit and win souls for Him.

VII. JESUS' TEACHING ON PROPHECY

The Olivet discourse in Matthew 24 to 25, deals mostly with prophetic subjects.

Matthew 24:1-3 deals with the destruction of Jerusalem which took place in A.D. 70.

Matthew 24:4-14 deals with the deteriorating career of this age in which we live.

Matthew 24:15-26 deals with the Great Tribulation, the Time of Jacob's trouble.

Matthew 24:27-31 tells of the return of the Lord in glory. Further details are added in the parable of the fig tree (verses 32-51), and the Ten Virgins of Matthew 25:1-13.

Matthew 25:31-46 tells of the Judgment of the Nations, the separation of sheep and goats.

The seven mysteries of Matthew 13:1-51 are different views of the Kingdom of Heaven.

CONCLUSION

I suppose that the teachings of Christ could be summed up in one word – love. He summarized the 600 commandments that the Orthodox Jew lived under to two commandments: (1) love God and (2) love your fellowman, Matthew 22:37-39.

Love has become the supreme mark of a Christian. John 13:35, “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

In John 15:13, Jesus referring to His substitutionary death on the cross says that He was demonstrating the greatest love possible to an individual.

Jesus prayer of intercession in John 17 is a plea for unity. See verses 11, 21, 22, 23. Not necessarily organic union but unity of purpose in winning lost souls.

Jesus left the Church, His body, on earth to witness in His absence, Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15.

Jesus doctrine tells us not only to love the lovely but to love everyone, even our enemies, for He already loves them, Matthew 5:44; 1 John 4:19; Romans 5:8.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were the 3 main discourses in the ministry of Christ?
2. Summarize in 3 points Jesus' teaching about salvation.
3. In what 6 ways would you consider the teachings of Jesus to be new and revolutionary?
4. Of whom did Jesus speak a great deal in the Upper Room discourse?
5. What passage of Scripture pronounces 8 woes on Pharisees and hypocrites?
6. Are Christians stewards of money only? Explain.
7. Is it true that Jesus taught love and discarded hell? Explain.
8. Mention 3 scriptures portions that deal with fruitbearing.
9. What sermon of Christ deals with prophecy?
10. How can the commandments be summarized with the verb “love”?