

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 82 – THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is an attempt to tell what kind of person Jesus really was.

R. A. Torrey "What the Bible Teaches," gives 56 pages to this subject.

We often sing or pray, "I want to be like Jesus." What do we mean by this?

Desire is most noble, but we need to emulate Him in more than one point.

He is our example, I Peter 2:21, not only in action but in character, too:

Romans 8:29, to be conformed to His image is basically being conformed to His character.

I. JESUS CHRIST WAS HOLY

The subject was covered in the lesson on the sinlessness of Christ.

Jesus Christ is holy, absolutely holy, for He was without a sin nature from birth.

Moreover, He did not commit any sin and always did that which was correct and pure.

In Acts 3:14, Peter refers to Jesus as "the Holy One and the Just (One)."

The Savior manifested His holiness in loving righteousness and hating iniquity. This is seen in His cleansing of the Temple and the denunciation of sin and hypocrisy.

Jesus hates sin so much that He was willing to die on Calvary to defeat and offer righteousness to all who will believe in Him.

Galatians 3:13 says Christ was a curse for us under the law. Romans 4:6 says God imputes righteousness to those who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord. See Revelation 9:8b.

II. JESUS CHRIST WAS LOVING

The Savior's love was manifested in two ways: (1) to His Father and (2) to mankind.

John 14:31, "But that the world may know that I love the Father."

Jesus manifested this love by obedience to the Father. John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." Also John 14:31b.

Jesus finished the work that the Father gave Him to do, John 17:4 and 19:30.

Christ especially loves the church. Ephesians 5:25, "Christ loved the church."

Jesus has a special love for His own. John 13:1, "Having loved His own..."

Jesus Christ also love sinners. Luke 19:10 says He came to seek and save the lost.

Matthew 9:13 shows Jesus obeyed His own teachings of Matthew 5:44 and loved His enemies, Luke 23:34. Jesus loved children. The Bible gives this beautifully in the scenes in Mark 10:13-16.

He demonstrated His love by becoming poor that we might become rich. II Corinthians 8:9, (R.V.), "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that ye through His poverty might become rich."

The supreme proof of his love was voluntarily dying for us. John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends."

Jesus continues to manifest His love to us daily by daily care and sustenance, Matthew 6:33.

III. JESUS CHRIST'S LOVE FOR SOULS

Let us follow our Savior in His never-dying love for the souls of men wandering in sin. He came as the Good Shepherd to seek lost sheep both of the Jews and the Gentiles. John 10:16, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring..."

Jesus loved the multitudes. He came to die for the world – all mankind, John 3:16.

But His ministry was mostly one of individual soul winning, reaching them one by one.

This first chapter of John records His dealings with two of John's disciples, Andrew and his friend, versus 37-40; Peter, verse 42; Philip, verse 43; Nathanael, verse 47.

John 3 with Nicodemus. John 4 with the woman at the well of Samaria. John 9 with the man born blind. Let's not be afraid to spend hours with a single soul.

In Luke 15:4, He bared His heart to go and search for the lost, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?"

Jesus entered into the joy of finding the lost sinner, Luke 15:5-7. In Luke 15:24, Jesus says, when the prodigal returned home that they "began to be merry."

Likewise, he was deeply grieved at every soul that rejected Him. Luke 19:41, 42, Jesus wept over stiff-necked Jerusalem; not over the city, but their souls.

Let us pray that we will be conformed to this love for souls and individuals.

IV. JESUS CHRIST WAS COMPASSIONATE

Jesus Christ was compassionate, for the Bible's shortest verse says, "Jesus wept." (John 11:35).

Jesus' compassion was manifested toward the multitudes. Mark 6:34, "And Jesus, when He came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd." May we, too, have compassion like this.

Jesus-compassion caused Him to be concerned for the people's physical need, John 6:5.

Jesus' compassion forced Him to heal the blind, John 9:1-38; Matthew 20:34. He had compassion on those possessed with demons, Mark 9:22, 25; Mark 5:1-13; Luke 4:41.

Jesus was compassionate on the poor lepers, Mark 1:40, 41; Luke 5:12-15.

Often we say we have compassion but Jesus demonstrated His compassion with actions.

He became a shepherd to the lost sheep. He became a Savior to the doomed. He healed the sick. He cast out demons. Let us love in both word and in deed.

V. JESUS CHRIST WAS PRAYERFUL

The four Gospels give us a glimpse into the great prayer life of the Savior, but none as strong as Hebrews 5:7, "Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able..."

It was not uncommon for Jesus to pray all night, Luke 6:12; Mark 1:35.

Jesus prayed before great experiences like His baptism, Temptation, etc., Luke 3:21; John 6:15.

He prayed openly to the Father requesting miracles, Matthew 14:19; John 11:41, 42.

Jesus ended his earthly life with a prayer on His lips to the Father, Luke 23:46.

Jesus often sought to be alone in prayer, in a solitary place or on the mountain side.

Sometimes He prayed alone, Matthew 14: 13; sometimes with His disciples, Luke 9:28; Luke 22:39-46.

Jesus prayed for individuals, Peter in Luke 2:31, 32; for "His own" in John 17:9, 20.

He prayed in submission to the will of the Father in Gethsemane, Matthew 26:42.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray and told us to do likewise, Matthew 6:9-13.

By prayer He overcame temptation, wrought miracles, escaped death, glorified God.

VI. JESUS CHRIST WAS MEEK

Meekness is the attitude of mind that is opposed to harshness and contentiousness (Torrey).

Meekness manifests itself in gentleness and tenderness toward others.

Jesus Himself says that He is meek. Matthew 11:29, "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart..." This is also stated in Matthew 12:20.

Paul asked the Corinthians this question: I Corinthians 4:21, "Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?"

As Christians we are to learn meekness. Galatians 6:1, "Restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

II Timothy 2:24, 25, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing..."

Jesus manifested meekness in not breaking the bruised reed or quenching the smoking flax, Matthew 12:20. He dealt tenderly with the broken and fanned the dying fire.

VII. JESUS WAS HUMBLE

Jesus was both meek and humble, "... Lowly in heart," according to Matthew 11:29.

He was humble for He sought not His own glory but the Father's glory, John 8:50.

The Savior shunned publicity and fabulous advertising which caters to pride.

The humility of Jesus allowed him to associate with publicans and sinners, Luke 15:1, 2.

The humility of Jesus kept Him silent under outrageous charges, Isaiah 53:7; I Peter 2:23.

Jesus demonstrated His humility by washing the disciples' feet, John 13:4, 5.

Philippians 2: 8, "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

CONCLUSION

Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

Let us not imitate but reproduce the holiness, love, compassion, meekness and humility of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

To be like Jesus – not only outwardly but inwardly – pure, true and prayerful as He is.

He longs to live this life of character again in us as we yield ourselves to Him.

Romans 6:19 – Let us yield our members to Him as "servants to righteousness unto holiness."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tell seven things about the character of Christ.
2. In what two ways did the Savior manifest love?
3. List five different ones that Jesus loved.
4. What is the significance of John 10:16?
5. Did Jesus specialize in mass evangelism or personal evangelism?
6. List seven classes for whom Jesus had compassion.
7. What do you feel to be the greatest lesson on prayer that Jesus gave us?

8. What does the word “meek” mean?

9. Prove that Jesus was meek.

10. How did Jesus demonstrate his humility? (5 ways)