

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
Class #172 – Tuesday PM October 23, 2007

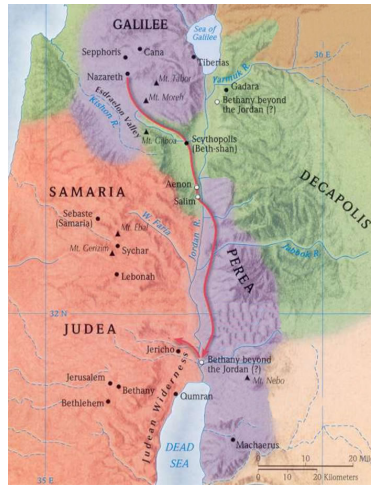
It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

In our last class we noticed the Lord did three things:

1. The Lord confirmed to John that He was in fact the Messiah (Luke 7:18-23).



- He did this by doing things that Messiah was prophesied to do.
- The question was asked, “Are you the Expected One or do we look for someone else?” (vs. 20)

Luke 7:21-23 At that very time He cured many *people* of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many *who were* blind. ²² And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*”

Encouragement of vs. 23 was designed to help John endure his imprisonment and death with hope!

Corrected translation ²³ “Blessed is he who does not allow his faith to become unraveled in Me.”

POD: Encouragement is designed by the Lord to facilitate the believer through the valleys of suffering.

POD: The Lord will provide the suffering believer encouragement to the finish line of life, providing the believer turns to the Lord in the throne of grace.

Dependence for the Christian should always be on the Lord!

POD: As John’s encouragement came from the Lord through his disciples, so the suffering believer’s encouragement can come from the Lord through believers.

- God works in fellow believers to will and to encourage.

- You may never know where the encouragement will come from, but you always need to recognize that the source is the Lord who sets it in motion.

POD: Encouragement can also come from the Word of God as the Holy Spirit illuminates and encourages the believer from within.

2. The Lord commends John to the multitude (Luke 7:24-28).

- He emphatically states that John was the Messenger spoken of in **Malachi 3:1** sent to prepare His way.

3. The Lord reproaches the religious leaders' rejection of John and Himself (Luke 7:30-35).

- John and Jesus fulfilled God's purpose for Israel and yet that purpose was rejected by many.

Luke 7:30-35 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

- The Pharisees were wise in their own estimation and therefore declared John's baptism invalid.
- The Pharisees refused to recognize that this was all part of God's plan.
- The Pharisees' pride, arrogance, and self-righteousness blinded them.

Pride will always blind the believer to God's plan.

The Lord then compares the Pharisees to children in the market place who spoil the activity of the day.

³² "They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' ³³ "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon!' ³⁴ "The Son of Man [*Jesus Christ*] has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

Both John and the Lord were not going to **do** what the religious leaders wanted them to **do**.

³⁵ "Yet wisdom is **vindicated** by all her children."

- **Vindicated** – δικαιόω – DIKAIŌŌ – "proved to be right"

Children naturally trust because they are not wise in their own understanding.

Children – unlearned, but trusting. . .

Luke 7:29-30 When all the people and the tax collectors heard [*children*], they acknowledged God's justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John.

The educated and wise do not vindicate - they reject. . .

³⁰ But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.

Messiah is rejected and called . . . **a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!**

- Rejection was something that grieved our Savior for He came to His own and His own received Him not (**John 1:11**).
- He longed to gather them just as a hen gathers her chicks under the protection of her wings, but they would not have it (**Luke 13:34**).

In review - -

POD #1 - When the believer fails to trust with humility as a child, he is unable to cooperate with what God is doing.

POD #2 - The Christian way of life is designed to be a life of trust where we cooperate with God in order to fulfill what He has prepared beforehand for us.

POD #3 - You might not understand what God is doing, but you must cooperate with what He is doing.

The Lord then chastises three Galilean cities in **Matthew 11:20-24**.

Matthew 11:20 Then He began to **denounce** the cities in which most of His miracles were done,

➤ **Denounce** - ὀνειδίζω - ONEIDIZO - “reproach, revile, heap insults upon”

Academic arrogance blinds the believer to the truth in the Word of God!

There are three cities He reproaches –

1. Χοραζὶν - **Chorazin** (vv. 21-22)
2. Βηθσαϊδᾶ - **Bethsaida** (vv. 21-22)
3. Καφαρναούμ - **Capernaum** (vv. 23-24)

They all had three things in common -

1. Jewish Galilean cities.
2. A majority of His miracles were done in them.
3. They did not repent!



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Matthew 11:20-21 Then He began to denounce [reproach, hurl insults or calamities upon] the cities in which most of His miracles were done, **because** (ὅτι - **HOTI**) they did not **repent**.

➤ **Repent** - μετανοέω – METANOEO – “to change one’s mind”

Despite the miracles, a majority of people who lived in Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum failed to change their mind about who Jesus was.

²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! . . .

➤ **Woe - οὐαὶ – OUI - “calamity, woe”**

Definition of **miracle**: An exercise of sovereign omnipotence in grace to validate what the Savior taught and who He was.

. . . For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

➤ **αἱ δυνάμεις – HAI DUMAMEIS – “The power” - a reference to the manifestation of divine power**

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.