

What Have You Learned – Lesson 1: The Death of Jesus Christ

Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

In this lesson set, the individual is guided to the need of continual learning of the things of our Jesus Christ.

Topical scripture will be presented in the hope of inspiring two groups:

1. Those who do not know Jesus Christ – To seek a saving knowledge of our Lord
 - To build a curiosity that each would want to understand why so many put faith in Jesus of Nazareth (even after over 2,000 years)
2. The believers – To seek to always know more of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - To develop a hunger for the Word of God that would lead to actions fulfilling His will and bring the believer into a closer relationship with the Lord

It is impossible to condense the entire Holy Bible into a few pages of a Sunday School lesson – Each topic will be referenced to scripture and subject in the hope that the reader will be inspired to seek for themselves in perfecting their knowledge of the truth.

Almost all the world knows of the man Jesus of Nazareth, that He existed over 2,000 years ago, and that every aspect of humanity has been influenced by Jesus from wars to celebratory customs and everything in between.

But who Jesus actually is, this is the first step in understanding God's love for humanity, and the hope of true fulfillment of the individual in God. This knowledge starts with the understanding of Jesus Christ's ministry to humanity (also called the 'gospel'), which centers on three facts:

1. The death of Jesus Christ
2. The burial of Jesus Christ
3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ

As each of these parts of the gospel lead to more knowledge of God's relationship with, and plans for humanity.

Lesson 1 – The Death of Jesus Christ

His death is the beginning of the end of Jesus Christ's earthly ministry as a man. Some background of His life includes specific events representing prophesy fulfilled (a sample of prophesies):

Event / Topic	Prophecy	Fulfilled
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Luke 1:26-31
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4-7
Seed of Abraham	Genesis 12:3	Matthew 1:1
Declared the Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:17
Galilean ministry	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
Speak in parables	Psalms 78:2-4	Matthew 13:34-35
Rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11
Triumphant entry (Jerusalem)	Zechariah 9:9	Mark 11:7-11
Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Mark 14:57-58
A substitutionary sacrifice	Isaiah 53:5	Romans 5:6-8
Crucified with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-28
Pierced through His hands and feet	Zechariah 12:10	John 20:27
Soldiers gamble for His garment	Psalms 22:17-18	Matthew 27:35-36

The death of Jesus Christ must be applied to two critical topics:

First – Jesus Christ is sinless

The sin nature of man (the judgement passed on Adam for his transgression) is passed from the male (as we are all children of Adam – each of us are his flesh through his seed). When referring to ‘sinless’, this is the context that is applicable to Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned

- All who are descended of Adam carry the condemnation of death (not based on the acts of your life, the judgement is against the flesh you inhabit)
- As reviewed in a previous lesson, humanity is created in God’s image (GEN 1:26-27) which is not in the context of physical appearance, but in the structure of our being – A triune creation as God is a triune being (Father, Son and Holy Spirit – MAT 28:19):
 - o Body – The earthly vessel of our being (a part of this earth)
 - o Spirit – The life God brings to each person (to return to God)
 - o Soul – The individual being (the eternal being created by God)

Why is the ‘sin nature’ of man important?

Genesis 2:17 - God defined sin and the consequence

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

- Sin is simply disobedience to God’s will (this is later expounded on as God selects the Jews as His people and gives the law that not only establishes acceptable behavior, but also provides a means to pay for sin.
- It is the payment of sin that becomes the path of humanity’s reconciliation to God through Christ

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

- o The price of sin is establish – Life is the only payment accepted

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

- o The life is in the blood – This is the only payment for sin

Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*

- o Sin must be accounted for
- o God makes no exceptions

Luke 1:34-35 – The conception of Jesus Christ as ‘sinless’

(34) Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

(35) And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

This is why the virgin birth is critical – Without the sin nature of Adam being passed to Jesus, He is blameless before God – Sinless in the context of divine judgement.

As a sinless man, He has all the liberty of Adam before sin – He is not judged for, or accountable to the things of this world, He cannot be judged by men. It is this sinlessness that provides the clues for the true identity of Christ:

Matthew 3:17 (also see Mark 1:10 and John 1:32) – God the Father identifies Jesus Christ as His Son
And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased

John 10:30 – Christ announces His identity
I and my Father are one

John 1:14 – The disciple John defines the identity of Christ
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Not merely sinless, but God come in the flesh to offer a path of reconciliation to God the Father (John 3:16)

Second – Jesus Christ is the substitutionary sacrifice for the sin of man

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The purpose of God come to humanity as Christ in the form of Jesus of Nazareth, is to settle the sin debt, that although the flesh of Adam is condemned, the soul may have life with God.

John 14:8 – Jesus announces His purpose: To be the intermediary for humanity in reconciliation to God
Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- Not simply a path of reconciliation, but the only path to God the Father – any who reject the gift of God reject God as well

Third – The sentencing of Christ is world denying the authority of God, while performing His will

John 19:4 – Judged before civil authority: No crime to Jesus' account
Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

John 19:7 – The religion of men condemns Christ
The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

- The execution of Jesus Christ was intended to stop the drawing away from the power of religion, as people drew closer to God through Christ (He was a threat to their power over people)

Luke 22:37 – Christ not only understood, but counted on the event of His death
For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me

Luke 22:42 – Christ also knew that the sacrifice would be at great personal cost
Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

- However, the will of the Father is the only requirement to be met

John 19:28 – Jesus defines the end of His earthly ministry

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, *It is finished:* and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Next Lesson: The Burial of Jesus Christ

What Is The Church – Lesson 1: The Death of Jesus Christ

Study Questions

1. According to Romans 5:12, why is it considered that all have sinned?

2. According to Exodus 34:7, what statement defines the just nature of God?

3. Reading Luke 1:34-35, how does this scripture support Jesus Christ as sinless?

4. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, what is the purpose of the Christ?

5. Complete the following scripture:

John 10:30 I and *my Father* are _____.

True / False

T F The price for sin is death.

T F The life is in the blood.

T F Christ is sinless.

T F Christ is the only path to God the Father.