

Lesson Thirty - Two**LESSON FROM THE LORD JESUS**

MEMORY VERSE: He that loveth not knoweth not god; for God is love. 1 John 4:8.

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 5:1-16

INTRODUCTION: It is impossible to put all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ in one lesson. Therefore what we shall try to do in this lesson is to summarize some of the teachings of Christ while on earth. In His earthly ministry, the Lord gave three long discourses: (a) the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:7), Olive Discourse (Matt. 24:25) and (c) the Upper Room Discourse (Jn. 13:16) and several other shorter messages. One thing characterized all His teachings however, and that is the power and authority with which He spoke (Matt. 7:28:29). Let us keep this in mind as we continue with this lesson that we are learning from one who has real authority.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. LESSONS ON SALVATION
2. LESSONS ON DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING
3. LESSONS ON STEWARDSHIP
4. LESSONS ON FRUIT BEARING
5. LESSONS ON HEAVEN AND HELL
6. CONCLUSION

1. LESSONS ON SALVATION

In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus told him that a man has to be born-again in order to see the Kingdom of God (Jn. 3:3-5). In short, Jesus revealed that He was the only door to Salvation and that no man could be saved except through Him. In Matt. 11:28-30, Jesus gave an invitation for the labourers and heavy laden to come to Him for Salvation and Soul-rest. Lk. 14:16-24, He extended the invitation to wanderers on the highways and byways, the poor, maimed, halt and the blind. In Jn. 3:16, we see clearly that the whole world is included in the Salvation plan of God even though not every body will accept the invitation.

2. LESSONS ON DAILY CHRISTIAN LIVING

In Matt. 5:33-38, we are taught three basic things, namely (a) not to swear (b) never to revenge but rather to turn the other cheek and (c) to love our enemies. Concerning gifts and giving we are taught in (Matt. 6:1-4; 19-21) that giving is to be done secretly and as an eternal investment. Under no circumstance are we to give with the aim of being seen. Praised or honoured. Concerning prayer, the Lord taught us to (a) pray in secret, (b) pray continuously and (c) our prayer is to be unlimited in scope and power (Matt. 6:5-13). The Lord also taught us that we must forgive others if we want Him to forgive us (Matt. 6:14-15) and we are not to set our affections on the necessities of life but that if we seek first the Kingdom of God, other necessities will be added on to us (Matt. 25:34). Jesus not only taught fasting but He practiced it Himself (Matt. 6:16-18) and made it clear that we are to confess Him as Lord openly beginning with our relations (Matt. 10:32-33, Mk. 5:19). He never promised us that life will be bed of roses but promised us that in every trial and persecution, He will always be available to help (Jn. 16:1-6).

3. LESSONS ON STEWARDSHIP

The Lord taught us that the true treasure is that which was sent to the Lord ahead of time (Lk. 12:16-34). And that no one is too poor to give in fact the little given by a poor man in his poverty is of more value than the much given by a rich man in his e (Mk. 12:41-44). Christians are stewards of their money, time, talents, gifts and opportunities and the Lord expects everyone to "occupy till I come" (Lk. 19:11-27).

4. LESSONS ON FRUIT BEARING?

It is the desire of our Lord that we should bear "Fruit" "More fruit" and "Much fruit" (Jn. 15:2-5). The tree or branch (Christian) that does not bear fruit was to be cut down, destroyed cast into the fire (Lk. 13:6-9, Jn. 15:6). We are also to be purged (Sanctified) in order that we will bear more fruit. The purging might be an unpleasant experience of "digging and digging" (Lk. 13:8) but it is highly essential.

5. LESSONS ON HEAVEN AND HELL

Our Lord spoke of hell and eternal punishment at least 70 times in the Gospel e.g. (Matt. 25:41). In fact it is the Lord who gave us the clearest picture of torment in hell in Lk. 16:19-31 and He gave us a solemn warning to avoid hell at all cost (Mk. 9:42-48). In Jn. 14:1-3, our Lord left us the assurance that He was going away for a little while to prepare mansions for us in our Father's home and then return to receive us.

6. CONCLUSION

The teachings of Christ could be summed up in one word- LOVE: Love God and love your fellowman (Matt. 22:37-39). Love is so essential for those going to heaven because there are nothing else there but love (1 Cor. 13:13, 1 Jn.4:8). Will you be there?

QUESTIONS

1. Summarize in 3 points the Lord's teaching on Salvation.
2. Are Christian's stewards of money only? Explain.
3. Is it true that Christ taught Love and discarded hell?

FURTHER READINGS: The following passages will tell you more about Jn.13:35, Matt. 28:19, Mk. 16:15, Matt. 5:44, 1 Jn. 4:19, Rom.5:8, Matt. 7:15-20.