

## Church of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Lesson 9

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- Matthew 14:13-21
  - Jesus had just been informed of the death of his cousin, John the Baptist
  - And He departed to be by Himself, but He had followers
  - He did not get mad at these followers – rather He had compassion on them
  - His disciples tried convincing Jesus to send them away, but He replies with the following:  
*“They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”*
  - Jesus took the 5 loaves and 2 fish and fed the multitude – 5000 men, not telling how many total because we aren’t given the amount of women and children
  - There was even some food leftover – they were filled
    - The world is in famine for the word of God
    - It is obvious – simply turn on the news
    - The Bible is our 5 loaves and 2 fish
    - It is our responsibility to give them something to eat – make disciples by baptizing them and teaching them to obey (Matthew 28:18-20)
    - Matthew 4:4 – *“But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”*
- Just a brief recap again this week
  - Lessons 1-4: foundational information of the church
    - Christ is the king, the head
    - The church is His kingdom (Ephesians 1 & Ephesians 5)
    - We are but servants in Christ’s kingdom (Philippians 2, Mark 10)
    - There is 1 church (Galatians 1)
      - Anything else is division and not the church our Lord established (1 Corinthians 1)
    - And we reiterated how we become a member of the church by looking at an example from Acts 8
  - Lessons 5-6: organization of the church
    - The eldership – how they are to shepherd the flock (Acts 20:28)
    - The deacons – how they are to serve in the church via assignments given to them by the eldership (Acts 6)
    - The qualifications for each – not just any person can serve in these roles (1 Timothy 3)
  - Now we’ve moved into the acts of worship of the church
    - Lesson 7 – the Lord’s Supper
    - Last week, Lesson 8 – singing
    - This week – preaching and teaching the word
    - You are worth more than rubies (Proverbs 31:10)
- Deuteronomy 6:4-25
  - We shall hear the Lord, because He is one

- John 17:11 – *“Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to you. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.”*
    - Ephesians 4:1-6
      - There is 1 of all the following: body, Spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God and Father of all
      - We can only maintain unity of the body throughout the world if we are teaching the Lord’s teachings
  - We shall love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and strength
    - A message that is reiterated for us in the NT (Matthew 22:37)
    - Our entire being shall demonstrate that we love the Lord
    - Colossians 3:4 – Christ is our life
      - He is not first in our life, but He is our life
      - We demonstrate this by our actions and our speech
  - The words of the Lord shall dwell in our hearts in the following ways
    - We shall teach our children
      - Proverbs 22:6 – *“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”*
    - They shall constantly be on our minds (when we sit in our homes, when we walk by the way, when we lie down, and when we rise up)
      - Psalm 1:1-2 – *“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.”*
    - We shall bind them on our hands, between our eyes, the doorposts of our homes and gate
  - Vs 10-25
    - When the Lord delivers the promised land to Israel, they are to keep the word on their minds and obey it for the following reasons
      - Lest they forget the Lord who delivered them from bondage
      - So they will fear the Lord and serve Him – not any false gods
      - That they may keep God’s commands and by doing so, they do what is right in the sight of God
    - I know this is an OT passage, but I think we all would agree that these principles are still accurate today
      - If we are in constant Bible study, and constantly have His word on our minds, it’s going to be hard for us to forget the Lord
      - We’ll be less likely to succumb to any temptation we may face
        - Remember, Jesus fought His temptation in Matthew 4 with Scripture
      - And we’ll be more likely to serve Him to the best of our ability
- Joshua 1:3-8
  - God has given Israel the promised land
  - God has promised us an eternal rest (Hebrews 4)

- But we have a condition – we must be obedient
  - He has paved the way, all we have to do is follow in His steps
- In Joshua’s case, that is all Israel had to do as well
- God would be with them – but there was a condition
  - Vs 7-8
    - Be strong and courageous (sometimes it takes great strength and courage to stand for the Lord when you’re the only one standing – but that’s what we’re called to do)
    - Observe the law – do not depart from it to the right or to the left
      - The Pharisees in the NT went a little too far to the right
      - And the Israelites in the book of Judges went a little too far to the left
      - They departed from it both times – and God destroyed Jerusalem both times
      - We must be centered on God’s word – speak where it speaks, respect its silence when it is silent
    - If Israel does this Joshua – then you will prosper
- Joshua had to take responsibility and make sure these conditions were met
  - These conditions were not met in the aftermath of the fall of Jericho in Joshua 6
  - Achan took some of the things they were instructed not to partake of (Joshua 7)
  - And God was not with them when they marched to Ai as a result (Joshua 7)
  - So Joshua took responsibility of the situation and made it right in God’s sight
  - Then they were successful in their campaign against Ai
- We must take responsibility as well
  - If we observe the laws and precepts of the Lord, He’ll bless us – if not in this life, then certainly the next
  - But there will be consequences if we choose not to observe His laws
  - So we need to keep them fresh on our minds – a great way to do that is to preach and teach the word regularly as we are instructed to do as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians
- Psalm 119:9-16
  - Only through the word can we be cleansed
  - Only through His word do we find what His plan of redemption for lost man is
  - We should seek after His word – hide it in our hearts, that it never may depart
  - Psalm 119:105 – *“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”*
- So we can see in the OT that they had numerous commands and examples of the importance of keeping God’s word – of preaching it and teaching it and observing it
- We have the same instruction in the NT
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is God-breathed; useful for doctrine, reproof, correcting, and instruction in righteousness
    - Doctrine (Teaching)
      - Acts 8:30-35
        - Ethiopian eunuch reading from Isaiah 53 (vs 32, 33)

- Philip taught him from this passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus found only in God's word (vs 35)
- Luke 24:13-35
  - Vs 27 – Jesus teaches these 2 all the Scriptures concerning Himself from Moses to all the prophets
- John 20:10-18
  - Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene after His resurrection (vs 14)
  - When Mary realized she was speaking with Jesus, she calls Him “Rabboni” which means teacher (vs 16)
- Romans 15:4
  - Everything written in the past (Old Testament) was written to teach us (vs 4)
- Reproof
  - Sharp criticism
  - Galatians 2:11-18
    - Paul opposed Peter to his face (rebuked) – vs 11. Why?
    - Peter was eating with Gentiles until Jews showed up (vs 12)
    - The Holy Spirit through Paul calls this hypocrisy (vs 13)
      - Hypocrisy spoken against in Romans 2:17-24
    - Peter was not acting in line with the truth of gospel (vs 14)
    - Paul had sharp words for Peter (vs 14-18)
    - Vs 14 is clarified by vs 15
      - In the context, Jew = righteous, Gentile = sinner (vs 15)
    - Peter was trying to make a distinction between Jews and Gentiles here
    - Paul says this is wrong (vs 15-18)
      - All Jews and Gentiles follow new law of Christ
      - Not old law
      - There is now no distinction between Jews and Gentiles
    - Peter should have known better (Acts 10 & 11, he was involved with the conversion of Cornelius & his household)
- Correction
  - More of a gentle reproof
  - Galatians 6:1
    - If someone is caught up in sin, restore him **gently** and consider yourself lest you be tempted (vs 1)
- Instruction in righteousness
  - Acts 18:24-28 (Apollos)
    - Apollos was a learned man (vs 24)
    - At this time, he knew only the baptism of John though (vs 25)
    - Priscilla and Aquila taught him more adequately (vs 26)



- During Paul’s first missionary journey in Acts 13 & 14, he and Barnabas preached the word with boldness
        - In Pisidian Antioch, they preached the word and converted many
        - However, the Jews ran them out of their city as the result of their envy (Acts 13:45)
        - That did not stop them though – they then went to Iconium and did the same thing
        - The Jews of Iconium ran them out of their city as well
        - But that still didn’t stop Paul and Barnabas, as they went on to Lystra and Derbe and continued preaching the word
        - Paul was stoned in Lystra by men who made the trip from Antioch and Iconium
          - They thought he was dead
        - But even that did not stop Paul and Barnabas from preaching the gospel
          - That did not even stop them from preaching in those cities again
          - After they were done in Derbe, they went back to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch and continued preaching
      - Paul and Barnabas did not let the opposition of the world stop them from preaching the gospel
      - A lesson that we can learn as well – we need to stand firm in the faith even when no one else is standing with us (Ephesians 6:10)
- Vs 2 – Timothy, I need you to commit the things I have taught to you to other faithful men so that they may be able to teach also
  - Think of the 5 loaves and 2 fish again in Matthew 14
  - Jesus and His followers did not keep them for themselves
  - They distributed to everyone – and they all had their fill
  - Not only that, but consider the parable of the sower in Matthew 13
    - The sower was not shy or selective about where he threw the seed
    - He threw it everywhere – freely
    - Some of that fell on good ground that yielded a crop
  - Going back to Deuteronomy 6, vs 2 states the following: *“that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.”*
    - Concerning our immediate families, we must be thinking about our children’s children
    - In other words, we must teach our children so that they can then turn around and teach their children, that they may teach their children, and so on
  - Paul tells Timothy to do the same thing here
  - Timothy – I will not be around forever (CH 4), so I’m passing these instructions onto you
    - But you’re not going to be around forever either

- So you need to pass these instructions to faithful men
  - That they may teach the word to others when you are gone
- Vs 15 – you must be prepared to rightly divide the word of truth
  - In doing so, you are presenting yourself as approved of God
  - There is a lot of false doctrine in the world
  - And you need to be prepared to combat that and defend the truth
  - You can only do that if you are strong in the word which comes from diligent study

- 2 Timothy 4:1-5

- Paul continues in his instruction to Timothy
- It is critical that you are diligent in your studies, because I **charge** you to preach the word in season and out of season
  - You must be ready at all times
  - Just like Philip was in Acts 8
    - When the Spirit sent Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch, Philip was ready
    - He taught the eunuch and converted him
  - Remember Moses in Exodus 4
    - *“O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”* (vs 10)
    - God responds *“Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”* (vs 11-12)
    - Moses was hesitant even after God told him that He would guide him in his efforts – prompting God to send Aaron with Moses (this angered God)
      - But God was with Him
  - God will be with us as well
  - We must be prepared to preach the word, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe the law of the Lord and lo, He will be with us always – even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Paul continues by telling Timothy that with the word, you must convince, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering
  - Sometimes, it can take a while before your teaching is really understood by people
  - We must have the patience to deal with these situations
  - My dad and I taught a young man named Levi in Covington – late May or early June
  - He understood the teaching the night we finished the “Back to the Bible” series with him
  - But he was not obedient – so I continued to encourage him every Sunday until he finally was obedient in late August
  - Sometimes it just takes patience – we don’t always know the intimate details of someone’s life

- If we plant the seed, and if we water it, and if it has fallen on good, fertile ground – God will bring forth the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6)
  - Paul concludes his remarks to Timothy on this subject by saying that there are people who will not endure sound doctrine
    - That they will hear what they want to hear – they will find someone who is preaching what they want to hear to justify their immoral behavior
    - Timothy – you cannot stand with that, you must stand with the truth (Ephesians 6:10)
    - Do the work of an evangelist
    - Fulfill your ministry
  - We are called to do the same thing
- Preaching the word in the assembly of the church is imperative and is a part of the worship of the church
  - To equip faithful men and women to preach to the world
  - And to edify us to keep us strong and standing for what is right (Ephesians 6:10)
  - May we never stop preaching the God-breathed word in the assembly