

ADVANCED LESSON 5, FINAL

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED LESSON TO:

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FIRST NAME ONLY: _____

Read Chapter 17

THE GLORY OF THE FATHER AND THE SON Vs 1-5: Jesus' last recorded prayer was for God's glory and for His followers. V1 He expresses the longing to be invested again with the glory which He knew with the Father, before the world began v5. As the time draws closer, He can afford to dwell on it. V4 the task set before Him is almost accomplished. "IT IS FINISHED" will soon be His triumphant cry Ch 19:30.

HIS DISCIPLES IN A HOSTILE WORLD Vs 9-11, 17 & 19: Jesus prays that His followers will be "kept" in the world, not removed from it & its problems v15. V12: "The son of perdition" – Judas – had allowed Satan to enter his heart and so rejected the truth John 13:27. Vs 11-12: Compare this thought of "oneness" in Him which is the same kind of oneness Jesus had with the Father. Apart from this there is no true "oneness" and all believers may experience this union. Many have tried to build artificial "unity", but unless it is "in the Father & the Son", as the Lord said in v21, it is useless and worthless. V20: A loving look to all who, through the ages, would "believe" in Him through the witness of others - compare John 20:26-29. Vs 17-26: The Word of God, the Truth, is the purifying influence in our lives and through Jesus' love and unifying influence others may know that we are truly His.

Key verses to memorise: JOHN Chapter 17:2-3

QUESTIONS

1. Should true believers expect to withdraw from the world and its temptations?

2. What is the description of eternal life? What is the proof that a person has eternal life – see Jesus' prayer.

3. Why was the “son of perdition” not “kept” like the rest of the disciples? V12

POINT TO PONDER: Try to imagine what Jesus’ glory was like, which He left, to come to earth and die for our sake. Ask yourself, am I willing to forsake my own comfort and convenience, for the sake of others?

Read Chapter 18:1-27

COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DEATH Helpful to read Luke 22:30 onwards, for details of the prelude to this scene recorded in John 18. Then follow with John 18:1-27. There were many private gardens on the Mount of Olives close to Jerusalem and to one of these our Lord had frequent access v2. Out of his knowledge of one of the most sacred & intimate habits of Jesus – communion with His Father – Judas developed his foul scheme! “The heart (of man) is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked”, cried the prophet Jeremiah 17:9-10, but God knows our hearts. V3: A “detachment of soldiers”, temple guards, came fully armed with weapons, torches & lanterns, all to take one peace-loving, unarmed man, in the darkness! V4-5: “Who is it you want?” Jesus bravely identified Himself, yet His look was enough to send His enemies reeling. Even here His God-given power over men is evident. V10: The courage of Peter, though misdirected, must not be overlooked, he tried to stand for his Lord but in the wrong way! V11: Jesus willingly accepted what His Father had planned for Him. V13: Annas, the High Priest, was head of a family which had become wealthy through robbery & cunning. The stalls in the Temple which Jesus had earlier overturned, belonged to the High Priest who was the “power behind the throne” of his son-in-law Caiaphas, who was the ruling priest at the time. V14: Unexpected insight on the part of Caiaphas. Vs19-24: a travesty of justice. No prisoner was permitted to be questioned directly and thus incriminate himself. Jesus called for a point of order and demanded witnesses. Vs 15-18 & 25-27: The story of Peter continues, but with tragic results, as foretold by Jesus – see John 13:38. Man’s confidence is misplaced if in his own strength he tries to withstand temptation!

Key verse to memorise: JOHN Chapter 18:10

QUESTIONS

4. What may we learn about the character of Jesus from His reactions to various people, as recorded in this section?

QUESTIONS

14. Why did Jesus especially single out Peter to question him?

15. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the disciples when He showed them where to cast the net?

POINT TO PONDER: Am I willing to declare with Peter, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you”. If so, what is His commission to me today?

We, at the League, pray that the studies you have just completed were a blessing and have helped to strengthen you in the knowledge of Him, our Lord and Saviour.

May He bless and keep you as you continue your walk of growth with Him.

QUESTIONS

12. Can you imagine Mary Magdalene’s thoughts, when she stole out in the early morning shadows to the tomb of Christ. How do you think you would have felt?

13. Why were the disciples so fearful?

POINT TO PONDER: Think yourself into the situation of Mary, Peter, John and Thomas. With which one are you most in sympathy, or like? Can you say with Mary – “I have seen the Lord”? Paul declared, “If there is no resurrection ... then we are of all men most miserable”.

Read Chapter 21

THE RISEN LORD AND HIS COMMISSION V1: Jesus again appears to His disciples. V3: Perhaps still a little despondent, puzzled by recent happenings, the disciples return to the familiar task of fishing, but even this affords no pleasure. Vs 4-6: Jesus’ kindly word and His provision for them, caused them to suddenly recognise the Lord! v7. Peter could not get to Him quickly enough. Vs 15-17: Jesus in love, singled out Peter and asked him for a re-committal. Of course he loved the Lord! And Jesus knew it, but his open confession was to strengthen him for severe persecution in the days ahead v18. Vs 20-23: Our committal and discipleship is a personal matter. God requires different things from different people, but we each must be fully willing to follow Him. Vs 24-25: John’s final word now. How true it is that the world itself cannot contain all that could be written about our blessed Lord, yet He has ordained that every believer should be a “living epistle” read and known of all men. John again asserts that his testimony if true. Compare 1John 1, where he reiterates that they had “seen” and “handled” the Word of God. The whole of the Epistles of John serve as a wonderful commentary on the truths outlined in the Gospel according to John.

Key verses to memorise: JOHN Chapter 21:12-14

5. Do you think it would have been better for Peter to stay out in the cold that night? Why did he fail?

6. By what habit of His life did Jesus Christ find the strength to face this crisis?

POINT TO PONDER: *Have I ever denied the Son of God, by word or deed or silence?*

Read Chapter 18:28 to Chapter 19:16

THE ROMAN GOVERNOR AND THE KING OF KINGS Chapter 18:28: Pilate was the Roman governor at that time. The Romans had overrun Palestine and the Judean province was always a trouble spot to them. Pilate alone could pass the death sentence. V39: Perhaps a sincere but feeble effort to release an innocent prisoner, ch 19:5. V40: The crowds shout, not now for a king, but for a rebel leader! Vs 36-37: The claim of Jesus to a kingship not of this world puzzles many. Chapter 19:1-16: continued the story. Flogging was a cruel form of punishment. Perhaps this would satisfy the thirst for blood? But, if Christ was innocent, why was He flogged? V2: The soldiers make mockery of a defenceless man. To them this was just a sport. Vs 6-7: Pilate knew that the Jews had no authority to crucify a criminal. He had no reason to do so, but he feared them. He tried to shelve responsibility. Pilate was already unpopular because he had taken Temple funds to build an aqueduct and had brought pictures of the Emperor Tiberius into the Holy City. To the Jews this was an act of idolatry. Vs 9-11: Jesus reminds Pilate that, apart from what God allows, he has no power whatever. Yet Jesus had all power! Vs 12-16: Further appeal to the people is useless, they are suddenly very ‘loyal’ to Caesar. To offend either party would mean trouble for Pilate. In this incident, Pilate the local dispenser of justice, acts unjustly. Pilate the local magistrate, actually stands on trial before his prisoner. With his rejection of the claims of Christ, he just fades out from history – a failure.

Key verses to memorise: JOHN Chapter 19:14-16

QUESTIONS

7. What can we learn from Pilate, as shown in this incident?

8. Many people today echo Pilate's question in Chapter 18:38. How may their question be answered?

9. Do you think this crowd was made up of the same people who, a few days earlier, had hailed Jesus as their King? John 12:12-15 If so, can you account for the complete change of attitude in the people?

POINT TO PONDER: *If I had been in Pilate's place, what would I have done?*

Read Chapter 19:17-41

THE CROSS IS THE CROWN Note: The Gospel writers show a holy reticence by not stressing the physical sufferings of Jesus, nevertheless, these were very real & severe. It was not the nails, but the love of Christ which held Him to the cross, as He bore the burden of our sin.

V17: In handing Jesus over, Pilate again reminds the people that He is their King. But they resist this claim v22. Vs 23-25: To Roman soldiers it was just another day's work. They show indifference and callousness in squabbling over His few meagre garments but look up Luke 23:47. The Centurion in charge saw things through enlightened eyes. V25: How different is this little band of faithful women, including the Lord's mother. Love and anguish are mingled. See Luke 2:35 where Mary was warned about this. Vs 26-27: Thoughtful to the last, Jesus entrusts His mother's future care to the "loved" disciple John. Who better? V28: John and other disciples saw in the death of Jesus, many O.T. Scriptures fulfilled. Jesus had told them they would understand. V38: Joseph, a secret follower until now, aligns himself, almost too late, and Nicodemus, whom we met in Ch 3, brings his gift v39. So the bruised & battered body of our dear Lord was laid gently to rest in the new tomb in the garden. Vs 31-42: Pinpoint the time of Christ's death. It was at Passover, when Jewish people killed thousands of spotless perfect lambs, in a ceremony which commemorated the deliverance of their forefathers from bondage in Egypt. Exodus 12. So Christ the perfect, sinless Lamb of God, John 1:29 "takes away the sin of the world" and we who believe are "sanctified" once for all, through the offering of His body. Hebrews 9:28 & 10:10. V30: With that triumphant cry from our Lord on the cross "IT IS FINISHED", comes our assurance that salvation is complete and we can add nothing to it.

Key verses to memorise: JOHN Chapter 19:35-37

QUESTIONS

10. Consider the four groups of people around the Cross, and describe their thoughts.

11. What Scriptures were fulfilled in verses 23-37?

"And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died, to take away my sin"

Read Chapter 20

CONFUSION, CURIOSITY AND CERTAINTY V1: Note the devotion of Mary who came to the tomb at the earliest possible time. Nobody was permitted to do so on the Sabbath day. V2: Fearing the worst she ran back to Peter, who still seems to have been regarded as leader, despite his failure. Hope still remains that perhaps the body has only been moved v13. Vs 3-10: Note the honesty on John's part – Peter still takes the initiative, by entering the tomb. V9: Puzzled, they did not yet realise that Jesus had to rise from the dead. Vs 11-18: Note Mary's rejoicing, when hope & faith would not allow her to completely give up! Angelic visitors, then the Lord Himself! In the grey dawn, through her tears, at first she failed to recognise Him v15, then she longed to cling to Him and worship Him vs 16-17, but Jesus gently rebukes her and gives her a commission "Go ... tell". Then came her joyous exclamation "I have seen the Lord!" – she was the first person to do so. Vs 19-23: There was fear and apprehension on the part of the disciples, but Jesus comes to them. Vs 24-29: Thomas, who history has dubbed the "doubter" received his special reassurance when Jesus returned. Such is the grace of our Lord. He meets each one, right in the place where we are. V 28: "My Lord and my God" – a new understanding of the rightful position of Jesus Christ. We too are included in v29, if we believe in Him. V30: A summing up of John's aim in writing his book – that all who read and believe may have life through the name of Jesus.

Key verses to memorise: JOHN Chapter 20:19-22 & 30