

# Understanding Jesus in the Gospels

Volume 2

David Moore II  
[truthinseason@gmail.com](mailto:truthinseason@gmail.com)

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## Forward

Prophet David Moore II is an inspiration to everyone who knows him. He not only speaks the truth in love, but his life and family resounds in the good works that God has ordained us to walk in. I never speak with David and I myself am not ministered to and edified by the revelation that God has placed in his life. His understanding of the Kingdom of God and its foundation in the ministry of Jesus and his apostles is much needed to bring the Body of Christ (His church) to its proper place in these last days. I highly recommend this reading and revelation for the people of God.

Don W. Krow  
Director of Discipleship Evangelism International Outreach

## Introduction

In the first volume, it seemed good to me to examine certain aspects of Jesus' life and ministry. I wanted to focus on the why of these things, which I believe is lost on many Christians. I covered ideas surrounding the Kingdom of God, the Resurrection, the inner witness, and God's plan. These should inform your perspective moving forward. My goal will be to focus more on what Jesus said and did, "not laying again the foundation" (Heb. 6:1) that I established in the first volume. As I mentioned in the first article of the previous volume, I won't be covering everything you ever wanted to know about Jesus in the Gospels, but I believe that this will help people to know God according to truth and be edified to "seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27).

Now, before I get started, let me mention that although Jesus' death was the most important thing He did, it wasn't the only thing He *needed* to do. Otherwise, when He was a baby, God could have let King Herod kill Him. Instead, God warned Joseph (as in the previous volume, I will be using the *New King James Version* of the Bible primarily, unless otherwise noted, and my brackets in the scriptures are for the purpose of clarification where it is helpful or needed):

Now when they [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

**Matthew 2:13**, brackets mine

Others tried to take Jesus' life, as I covered in the third article of the previous volume, but those attempts failed, as "His hour had not yet come" (John 7:30 and 8:20). Jesus had to willingly lay down His life. He said—

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. [18] No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

**John 10:17-18**

In this volume, I will be examining what seems to me to be the broad strokes of what Jesus did during His life and ministry, including His death and resurrection.

## Article 1: What Is the Kingdom of God?

Let's start by examining some of the things Jesus "began both to do and teach" (Acts 1:1). As I pointed out in the first article of the previous volume, He "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

Now, when Jesus infiltrated the culture of His day and started His ministry, He didn't do what many people thought He should do:

And the Lord [Jesus] said, "To what then shall I liken the men of this generation, and what are they like? [32] They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, saying: 'We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not weep.' [33] For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' [34] The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"

**Luke 7:31-34**, brackets mine

Jesus didn't pander to these people. Why would He? He didn't share their sensibilities. He called this generation "evil" (Luke 11:29), "adulterous and sinful" (Mark 8:38), and "faithless and perverse" (Matt. 17:17). Basically, they were crazy, and He wasn't going to accept their craziness. He largely held the religious leaders responsible for this:

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. [14] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. [15] Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

**Matthew 23:13-15**

The Pharisees and scribes had found clever ways to circumvent God's truth:

He [Jesus] answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. [7] And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' [8] For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men – the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." [9] He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition."

**Mark 7:6-9**, brackets mine

By this, Jesus told them they were “making the word of God of no effect” (Mark 7:13), when He only said what He heard the Father say and only did what He saw the Father do. He said—

“I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him [the Father].”

**John 8:26**, brackets mine

“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”

**John 5:19**

Look at how the next passage says the Father speaks by His Son:

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, [2] But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. [3] The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.

**Hebrews 1:1-3**, *New International Version*

I love that: “the exact representation” of God. Those words in the Greek are the word “charakter,” and it can mean “an exact copy” (Strong’s Concordance). In other words, to see Jesus was to see the Father:

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” [9] Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

**John 14:8-9**, *New International Version*

Before Jesus came, it was unprecedented that anyone so accurately expressed the Father:

No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

**John 1:18**, *Amplified Bible*

Jesus said something very similar here:

“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

**Matthew 11:27**

So, how *did* Jesus declare the Father? What did He say that He heard the Father say? Well, as I mentioned in the first article of the previous volume, Jesus preached the Kingdom of God all of the time. Therefore, since He only said what He heard the Father say and He only preached the Kingdom of God, that's what He heard from the Father! Jesus said—

**“I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”**

**Luke 4:43**

He said He *must* preach the Kingdom of God! Whoa!

The Greek word for **“must”** can mean “necessary” (Strong’s Concordance), so this is an example of what Jesus *needed* to do during His life and ministry. And as He said He would do, He preached the Kingdom everywhere:

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom.

**Matthew 9:35a**

Notice that when Jesus preached the Kingdom of God, He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. I’ll come back to the word “gospel” later in this article.

Now, what did Jesus do that He saw the Father do? Well, one of the things He spent a lot of time doing was demonstrating the Kingdom of God. How? By working miracles! Look at what He told seventy of His disciples, whom He was sending into every city He was about to visit:

**“And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”**

**Luke 10:9**

A little while after this, He said—

**“But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”**

**Luke 11:20**

As the Apostle Paul wrote, “the kingdom of God is not in word but in power” (1 Cor. 4:20). He later made clear that the Gospel came with power as well:

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power.

**1 Thessalonians 1:5a**

As I covered in the first article of the previous volume, when Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead, it showed that He was stronger than Satan. But it also showed that He cared about people, that He wasn't oppressive, and that He wanted to be their King. That's what Jesus meant when He told His disciples, **"And heal the sick there [whatever city the disciples entered], and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you'"** (Luke 10:9, brackets mine).

So, what is the Kingdom of God? This is the question Don Krow asked me all those years ago, which started me on this study, and which I now feel I'm better prepared to answer. The answer lies in examining the words **"kingdom"** and **"God."**

The Greek word for **"kingdom"** can mean "rule" (Strong's Concordance). It was translated "reign" in this verse:

**"And He [Jesus] will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

**Luke 1:33**, brackets mine

**"Kingdom"** is a two-part word, made up of its syllables. **"King"** in the Greek can mean "a sovereign" (Strong's Concordance). The American Heritage Dictionary defines "sovereign" as, "One that exercises supreme, permanent authority." **"-dom"** is short for "domain" (The American Heritage Dictionary).

What does **"God"** mean? In the Greek, it can mean "a deity, especially the supreme Divinity" (Strong's Concordance). Notice the word "supreme." I think of how Jesus referred to God as **"the Most High"** (Luke 6:35). It denotes that God has absolute ascendancy. There is none higher or greater than Him.

Therefore, the Kingdom of God is the domain, or rule, or reign, of the one who is supreme. That's why the Scripture says Jesus "taught them as one having authority" (Matt. 7:29). Because He *did* have authority! Over all! He was representing the Most High God!

Now, what does "gospel" mean? In the Greek, it can mean "a good message" (Strong's Concordance).

So, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the good message, or news, of the rule of God. I shared in the second article of the previous volume that when Jesus spoke, it was a decree, meaning it was absolute. But it's good news. The reason why it's called good news is because God is the one *behind* the news, guaranteeing it. Really, it's the *best* news. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, people were shouting, "Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:10). "Hosanna" means "oh save!" (Strong's Concordance). The God who is the Most High God is a Savior! And "there is no wisdom or understanding Or



counsel against the LORD” (Prov. 21:30). Hallelujah! When the Lord purposes something, “who can stop it?” (Is. 14:27, *Common English Bible*). The answer: No one!

But the Gospel of the Kingdom of God required that people receive it in order for it to accomplish what God intended. Look at how the writer of Hebrews explained it:

For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them [Israelites]; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.  
**Hebrews 4:2**, brackets mine

Jesus put it this way, saying—

**“Repent, and believe the gospel.”**

**Mark 1:15**

To believe the Gospel was to receive the Kingdom. To receive the Kingdom was to receive the King—Jesus. Jesus really is the embodiment of the Kingdom of God! When He came on the scene, so did the Kingdom!

Now, to receive Jesus meant to *entrust oneself* to Him. That’s what Paul and Silas told a prison guard:

And they answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well.”

**Acts 16:31**, *Amplified Bible*

Those who received Jesus received the Father:

**“He who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”**

**Matthew 10:40b**

Those who rejected Him rejected the Father:

**“He who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”**

**Luke 10:16b**

But how did Jesus distinguish between those who would receive Him and those who wouldn’t? I will examine this in the next article.

## Article 2: The Truth Revealed Hearts

Previously, I defined what the Kingdom of God is and how Jesus embodied it as the “exact representation” (Heb. 1:3, *New International Version*) of God. But, as I pointed out, the representation was also an invitation: to believe on Jesus. Now, Jesus knew “from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him” (John 6:64). So, He knew who *would* believe, but no one *could* believe before they heard the Word:

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**Romans 10:14**

It was only *after* people heard Jesus that they could believe Him or not. Jesus said that some, when they heard the truth, would listen to Him:

“This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people [testify/witness to] the truth. And everyone who belongs to the [on the side of] truth listens to me [hears my voice].”

**John 18:37b**, *Expanded Bible*

Others rejected Him after hearing the truth, as He told them—

“But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. [46] Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? [47] He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

**John 8:45-47**

Curious that people were so divided when Jesus simply spoke the truth. But, see, the truth revealed hearts! It revealed who would believe and who wouldn’t. To His disciples He said, “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you” (John 15:3). But of those who wouldn’t believe, He said—

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”

**John 15:22**

Before this, He said—

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

**John 12:48**

Look how Jesus explained that light also reveals:

“The light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. [20] For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. [21] But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

**John 3:19-21**

Here is a verse that goes right along with that:

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

**Ephesians 5:13**

Do you see how light does the same thing as truth? Truth is light. They both reveal. The Bible says that the Word of God reveals too:

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Hebrews 4:12**

I said in the fourth article of the previous volume that Jesus didn't come to change people's hearts as much as reveal them, and this is one of the passages I used to bear that out:

“Behold, this Child [Jesus] is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against [35b] that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

**Luke 2:34 and 35b**, brackets mine

Notice it says that the fall and rising of people is tied to their hearts being revealed. Now, those who would fall would not do so “to their utter spiritual ruin, irretrievably” (Rom. 11:11a, *Amplified Bible*). But they “stumbled at that stumbling stone [33] As it is written: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him [Jesus] will not be put to shame’” (Rom. 9:32b-33, brackets mine).

Every time Jesus spoke, hearts were revealed, and people were separated on that basis. Here are two examples:

Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this [Jesus'] saying, said, “Truly this is the Prophet.” [41] Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Will the Christ come out of Galilee? [42] Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed

of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" [43] So there was a division among the people because of Him.

**John 7:40-43**, brackets mine

Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these [Jesus'] sayings.

**John 10:19**, brackets mine

But, understand, one of the things Jesus came to do was bring division:

"Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. [52] For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three."

**Luke 12:51-52**

Whoa!

In Matthew's account of this, He said He came to bring a sword to divide:

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. [35] For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; [36] and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'"

**Matthew 10:34-36**

Jesus' words would even divide *families*! This was part of what He came to do. That's a big deal! That's why Jesus redefined what a family was in this passage:

Then His [Jesus'] mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. [20] And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." [21] But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

**Luke 8:19-21**, brackets mine

This is radical! Some might have thought Jesus was being cold, but He was just pointing out what really mattered. Those who heard His words and did them were His family!

You see, this thing wasn't about kinfolk necessarily. What Jesus was talking about transcended that. And it wasn't about heritage, which I'll cover later in this article, or lineage either. Jesus said—

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. [38] I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father." [39] They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our

father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. [40] But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.”

**John 8:37-40**

As I covered in the first article of the previous volume, what really mattered was one Kingdom against another: the Kingdom of God versus the kingdom of Satan. It’s always has been about this. It’s always about light versus dark, good versus evil, life versus death. This was a war! And it would even see family members turned against each other.

Now, let’s look at a few examples where Jesus’ words revealed who would believe in Him and who wouldn’t:

1) Early in His ministry, Jesus came to the city of Samaria. There He spoke with a woman at a well. Look at what she said and Jesus’ reply:

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” [26] Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

**John 4:25-26**

After Jesus said this, she went back into the city and told people—

“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

**John 4:29**

And when they came out and heard Jesus, the Scripture says “many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified” (John 4:39). After staying there two days, “many more believed because of His own word. [42] Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world’” (John 4:41-42).

Notice that when they heard Jesus, they believed! What an awesome example of how people *should* respond to Jesus when they hear Him!

2) When Jesus left Samaria, He came to Nazareth in Galilee and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath. There, He was handed the book of Isaiah and read a prophecy about the Christ from it:

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the

captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
[19] To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

**Luke 4:18-19**

After reading this, everyone there just looked at Him, like they didn't get what He was implying. I imagine Him leaning in when He continued with—

“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

**Luke 4:21**

But when they began to question this, saying “Is this not Joseph's son?” (Luke 4:22), He quoted a proverb to them and then said—

“Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. [25] But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; [26] but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. [27] And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

**Luke 4:24-27**

Jesus was telling them that because they hadn't received Him, they showed that they were not the people to whom He had been sent by God. In the two examples Jesus gave, God went *outside* the Jewish nation to choose Gentiles. This was highly offensive to the people sitting there, as they were Jews! In an instant, they went from what seemed to be nice religious folks to a raging mad lynch mob:

So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, [29] and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

**Luke 4:28-29**

They thought they were God's people no matter *what* they did, and they were willing to murder Jesus to prove it! They fell back on heritage, probably thinking, *The audacity of this son of Joseph!* But Jesus pointed out that it wasn't about heritage! These people should have taken Him at His word and believed in Him. Though they felt He had insulted them, His words only revealed what was *already in their hearts*, as I've covered.

3) After this instance in Nazareth, Jesus went to Capernaum. There, the people received Him favorably when they heard His words:

Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. [32] And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with

authority. [33] Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, [34] saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are – the Holy One of God!" [35] But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. [36] Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out."

**Luke 4:31-36**

Look at what Mark's account says happened next:

And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

**Mark 1:28**

How's *that* for a response! Shortly after this, the people of Capernaum brought their sick to Him and He healed them all:

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

**Luke 4:40**

Mark's account says "the whole city was gathered together at the door" (Mark 1:33). The whole city!

Sometime afterward, Jesus went back to Capernaum and was talking with a group of people whom He had miraculously fed the day before. They had tracked Him down, basically wanting to be fed again, which I examined in the second article of the previous volume. On this return visit, Jesus' words revealed that some of them really didn't believe in Him:

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. [54] Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. [55] For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. [56] He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. [57] As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. [58] This is the bread which came down from heaven – not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." [59] These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. [60] Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" [61] When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you? [62] What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?"

**John 6:53-62**

I'm not sure if Jesus was being humorous with this response or not, but it makes me laugh! What, *indeed*, would they do? Jesus then said—

**“It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh doesn't give life [is useless; counts for nothing]. The words I told you are spirit, and they give life [or are from the Spirit who gives life].”**

**John 6:63, Expanded Bible**

Jesus' words are life! But many of these people didn't receive that or Him, as the Scripture goes on to say that “from that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” (John 6:66). It turned out that these disciples were with Jesus as long as they understood Him. When He said something they didn't agree with, they were gone! That's tragic. But Jesus' words were like a sword. They cut right through the nonsense, right to the heart. He found out who was really with Him and who wasn't. After these disciples left, Jesus turned to the Twelve and gave them the opportunity to leave too:

Then Jesus said to the twelve, **“Do you also want to go away?” [68]** But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. **[69]** Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

**John 6:67-69**

Peter got it! He stuck with Jesus *regardless* of what He said! Not many people understood this. But, you see, Jesus was the Christ! If people rejected Him because they didn't understand Him, *they* needed to change, not Him! He had already given them plenty of reasons to believe in Him. I spent a lot of the previous volume covering this.

Even if people wanted to defer following Him because of reasons that many would consider to be understandable, that was not acceptable:

Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” **[22]** But Jesus said to him, **“Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”**

**Matthew 8:21-22**

Luke's account of this instance recorded Jesus' exchange with another man:

And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” **[62]** But Jesus said to him, **“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

**Luke 9:61-62**



What was so wrong about a man burying his father, or another saying goodbye to his family? They were excuses. These men wanted special consideration. If Jesus had permitted them, it wouldn't have been long before they were making other excuses as to why they couldn't do what He said.

Now, Jesus didn't think it was beneath Him to explain Himself, but He certainly didn't give people a pass when He was clear. Here is an example:

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. [2] This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." [3] Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." [4] Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' [8] The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

**John 3:1-9**

But Nicodemus should have understood what Jesus was talking about. That's why He answered, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? [11] Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness" (John 3:10-11). Jesus then told Nicodemus that what He said revealed his heart:

"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"

**John 3:12**

He called Nicodemus on his unbelief because as a teacher, he—for sure—should have known better! Otherwise, he probably shouldn't have been teaching. That might seem harsh, but it's right on. Jesus wasn't playing around with him. He spoke "the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). Nicodemus might have seemed sincere at first, but Jesus revealed that he wasn't truly willing to become His disciple, like others we've looked at.

One time, Jesus explained to a great multitude what it would take to be His disciple:

"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. [27] And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. [28] For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost,

whether he has enough to finish it – [29] lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, [30] saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ [31] Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? [32] Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. [33] So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

**Luke 14:26-33**

This was the cost of discipleship! Jesus put it another way here:

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”

**John 8:31**, *King James Version*

A person had to *continue* in Jesus’ word if they wanted to be His disciple.

So, what kind of people were Jesus’ disciples? Aside from the fact that they believed in Him, what distinguished them from others? I will examine this in the next article.

## Article 3: The Kind Who Would Become His Disciples

After Jesus spoke, only certain people stayed around. This was not coincidental or arbitrary on His part. This was how He chose His disciples! The Bible says that Jesus called those whom “He Himself wanted” (Mark 3:13). Jesus told His disciples, “**You did not choose Me, but I chose you**” (John 15:16). But even from among them, He chose twelve:

And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles.

**Luke 6:13**

Scripture says that Jesus appointed the twelve “that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach” (Mark 3:14). But why did Jesus choose these guys? What was Jesus looking for in disciples? Examining *this* is important to understanding *Him*.

Let’s look again at a verse we read in the previous article, where Jesus read from the book of Isaiah:

**“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed.”**

**Luke 4:18**

This is what Jesus’ disciples would be like! However, they weren’t like this *physically* necessarily. So, what did Jesus mean? This next passage reveals that He was not talking about an *outward* condition but an *inward*:

And Jesus said, **“For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.” [40]** Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, **“Are we blind also?” [41]** Jesus said to them, **“If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, ‘We see.’ Therefore your sin remains.”**

**John 9:39-41**

Because these Pharisees hadn’t acknowledged their blindness when they encountered Jesus, they were *truly* blind, and thus still in their sins. They were not the kind of people He was looking for. This is what He said about these kinds of people:

**“And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: “Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; [15] For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have**

closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.”

**Matthew 13:14-15**

Now contrast this with what Jesus told His disciples:

“Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.”

**Matthew 13:16**

The Greek word for “see” in this verse was also translated “perceive,” in 2 Corinthians 7:8. Jesus’ disciples could perceive where these Pharisees could not. This is why Jesus called His disciples “blameless” (Matt. 12:7, *Young’s Literal Translation*), while the Pharisees’ sin remained.

Look at something Jesus said to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount:

“Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God.”

**Luke 6:20**

Matthew’s account of this makes it clear that Jesus was talking about an inward poverty:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

**Matthew 5:3**

Let’s continue reading, as Jesus gave further detail of what His disciples were like:

“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. [5] Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. [6] Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. [7] Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. [8] Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. [9] Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. [10] Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”

**Matthew 5:4-11**

I used part of this passage in the fourth article of the previous volume when I was giving examples of the kind of people Jesus could harvest. These were the kind of people Jesus was looking for. The kind who would become His disciples.

Now, the Apostle Paul, formerly known as Saul, was a Pharisee like the ones we read about in John 9. However, *unlike* them, he was actually “zealous toward God” (Acts 22:3). Nevertheless, his zeal was for the “persecuting of the Church” (Phil 3:6). He later

wrote that he received forgiveness because his sin was done “ignorantly in unbelief” (1 Tim. 1:13). In other words, he didn’t know that what he was doing was wrong. The fact that he had zeal toward God meant that he was well intentioned, or noble, not presumptuous. This is a big deal! Jesus said that people who are noble receive the Word:

“But as for that [seed] in the good soil, these are [the people] who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in a just (noble, virtuous) and worthy heart, and steadily bring forth fruit with patience.”

**Luke 8:15, Amplified Bible**

A person who is noble is *not* a person who is perfect, or without sin. That’s very important. I touched on this in the fourth article of the previous volume.

Jesus wasn’t looking for people to *make* humble; He was looking for people who would acknowledge their sin and humble *themselves*! *This* is what made them noble! Read this:

Also He [Jesus] spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: [10] “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. [12] I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ [13] And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ [14] I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Luke 18:9-14, brackets mine**

This Pharisee looked pious on the outside, but what really mattered was “the hidden person of the heart” (1 Pet. 3:4). Jesus told the Pharisees, “**Your inward part is full of greed and wickedness**” (Luke 11:39). They were majoring on the minors instead of majoring on the majors:

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

**Matthew 23:23**

For Jesus to pronounce a woe like this means that the scribes and Pharisees had no excuse for what they were doing. The Scriptures they spent so much time searching had shown them what was important. Here is an example:

“But on this one will I [the Lord] look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.”

**Isaiah 66:2b**, brackets mine

The Hebrew word for “look” can mean “by implication, to regard with pleasure, favor or care” (Strong’s Concordance).

Now, let’s look at how Peter responded to Jesus before he became His disciple:

When He [Jesus] had stopped speaking, He said to Simon [Peter], “**Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.**” [5] But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” [6] And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. [7] So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. [8] When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

**Luke 5:4-8**, brackets mine

This is *contrition*! At this, Jesus told Peter—

**“Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”**

**Luke 5:10**

He *accepted* Peter when he humbled himself! That was when Peter “forsook all and followed Him” (Luke 5:11). This is a far cry from those we looked at in the previous article who deferred following Him.

Why were all these inward conditions important to being Jesus’ disciple? Because that is what He Himself was like! He said—

**“I am gentle and humble of heart.”**

**Matthew 11:29**, *The Voice*

This is a great example of how understanding the disciples is important to understanding Jesus, and why He chose them.

Jesus never asked anyone to do anything *He* wasn’t willing to do. See here:

**“You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. [14] If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. [15] For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. [16] Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent**

greater than he who sent him. [17] If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

**John 13:13-17**

In the Sermon on the Mount, remember He said His disciples *were* blessed, and they were like Him. Here, He said they *would* be blessed if they *continued* to be like Him.

Now let's examine what were they like who *weren't* Jesus' disciples:

1) They loved money and trusted in it.

Jesus told His disciples—

“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

**Luke 16:13, English Standard Version**

Look at how the Pharisees responded to this and then what He said:

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. [15] And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

**Luke 16:14-15**

This is a strong statement Jesus made!

Later, He told His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:23). When they were astonished at this, He explained, saying, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:24). It was *trust* in riches that was the problem.

2) They loved honor and praise from man.

Some who believed in Jesus would not publicly declare it, because they did not want to lose their place of position:

Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; [43] for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

**John 12:42-43**

But Jesus said that “all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him” (John 5:23). However, the Jews were too busy honoring each other to do this, as Jesus asked them—

“How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?”

**John 5:44**, brackets mine

The answer? They couldn't! And because of that, Jesus had this to say about them:

“But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. [25] Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep. [26] Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

**Luke 6:24-26**

Does this mean that no one who was rich, full, laughing, and spoken well of received Him? No. That certainly wasn't the case with Zacchaeus:

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. [2] Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. [3] And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. [4] So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” [6] So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. [7] But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” [8] Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” [9] And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; [10] for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**Luke 19:1-10**

The truth is, those who were rich, full, laughing, and well spoken of tended to *trust* in those things rather than in Jesus. They didn't see their *need* for Him! That's why the Apostle Paul wrote—

Brothers and sisters, look at what you were when God called you. Not many of you were wise in the way the world judges wisdom [by human standards; according to the flesh]. Not many of you had great influence [were powerful/strong]. Not many of you came from important families [were well-born; were of high social status]. [27] But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and he chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. [28] He chose what the world thinks is unimportant



[insignificant; lowly] and what the world looks down on [despises] and thinks is nothing in order to destroy what the world thinks is important [something special]. [29] God did this so that no one can brag [boast].

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29**, *Expanded Bible*

One of the most important things Jesus did during His life and ministry was make disciples. He told His disciples to do the same:

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

Jesus said this after He had risen from the dead and was soon to leave the Earth. You might ask why He would say He would be with them when He was getting ready to leave. It's a good question. But first consider that He told His disciples that it was better that He leave:

**“I tell you the truth; it is better for you that I go away.”**

**John 16:7**, *Young's Literal Translation*

What could be better than having Jesus here on the Earth? I covered in the second article of the previous volume that the greatest sign Jesus performed was His death and resurrection, that this is what verified Him as the Christ. However, that is not what He was talking about here. So, what *more* did His death and resurrection accomplish? The answer to that and how He was able to stay with His disciples is the same. I will examine this in the next article.

## Article 4: Man Could at Last Be Free

During His ministry, Jesus said and did things that got Him into trouble with people. For instance, “Jesus said to them [the Jews], ‘**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**’ [59] Then they took up stones to throw at Him” (John 8:58-59, brackets mine).

Later, when Jesus said “**I and My Father are one**” (John 10:30), “the Jews took up stones again to stone Him” (John 10:31). They said—

“For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

**John 10:33**

This was the big problem people had with Jesus, and it was ultimately what led to them crucifying Him. I covered this in the fourth article of the previous volume.

But let’s look at one instance in particular where people thought Jesus was blaspheming:

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. [4] And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. [5] When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “**Son, your sins are forgiven you.**” [6] And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, [7a] “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this?”

**Mark 2:3-7a**

On the surface, this might seem to be a fair question by the scribes, for “who can forgive sins but God alone,” they asked (Mark 2:7). It appears that they were just trying to rationalize how any man could do this. However, look at what happened next:

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “**Why do you think evil in your hearts?**”

**Matthew 9:4**

Wow!

It was evil of these scribes to think that Jesus couldn’t forgive sins! In other words, they should have known better! Nevertheless, Jesus *proved* He could forgive sins by healing the paralytic:

“**But so you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...**” He then said to the paralytic, [11] “**I command you, ‘Get up, then pick up your stretcher,**

and be on your way home!” [12a] And he got right up, picked up his stretcher, and walked out of there in full view of everyone!

**Mark 2:10-12a**, *The Last Days Bible*

Now, I go into more detail about this in the first and second articles of the previous volume, but when Jesus displayed miracles, it verified that He was the Christ. Look at the reaction of the people when He healed the paralyzed man:

And the crowds were awe-struck when they saw it, and ascribed the glory to God who had entrusted such power to a man.

**Matthew 9:8**, *Weymouth’s New Testament*

Radical!

Sometime after this, Jesus forgave a woman who was known as a sinner:

Then He [Jesus] turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. [45] You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. [46] You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. [47] Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.” [48] Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” [49] And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” [50] Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

**Luke 7:44-50**, brackets mine

However, later still, Jesus told His disciples He would die so that man’s sins would be forgiven. Read it here:

And then He [Jesus] took the cup of wine, He made a blessing over it, and He passed it around the table. Jesus: “Take this and drink, all of you: [28] this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

**Matthew 26:27-28**, *The Voice*, brackets mine

What!?! Why would Jesus have to die for people’s sins when He could just forgive them? Because Jesus wasn’t just after *absolving*, or *pardoning*, people of their sins. That wouldn’t have fixed the problem. He wanted to free people from sin! In fact, the Greek word for “**forgiveness**” in Matthew 26:28—“*aphesis*”—is derived from the Greek word used for “**forgive**” in Mark 2:10, which Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says “involves the complete removal of the cause of offense.” That’s more than just forgiveness! Strong’s Concordance says “*aphesis*” can mean “freedom,” and in Luke 4:18, it was translated “**deliverance**” and “**liberty**.” So, in a nutshell, “**the**

**“forgiveness of sins”** means freedom from sin! Jesus explained this concept to a group of Jews when they didn’t understand Him:

“But we are descendants of Abraham,” they said, “and have never been slaves to any man on earth! What do you mean, ‘set free’?” [34] Jesus replied, **“You are slaves of sin, every one of you. [35] And slaves don’t have rights, but the Son has every right there is! [36] So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.”**

**John 8:33-36, *The Living Bible***

To be a slave of sin was to be a slave of the devil because he is the author of sin:

Anyone who continues to live in sin is acting just like the devil, and he belongs to him, because the devil has continued to sin ever since he first introduced sin into the universe.

**1 John 3:8a, *The Last Days Bible***

The Apostle Paul wrote what it was like to be a slave of sin:

But I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. [24] What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

**Romans 7:23-24, *New International Version***

This is the universal plight of man in his sinful state!

As I pointed out in the first article of the previous volume, Satan’s real power was death because of sin. But Paul went on to answer his question, writing—

I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Romans 7:25**

It’s got to be Jesus!

The angel Gabriel told Joseph that Jesus would “save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:18). How? As I also mentioned in the first article of the previous volume, He did it by destroying the works of the devil, which is what the latter part of 1 John 3:8 says:

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Since the works of the devil are sin, as we read, Jesus had to become, or bear, man’s sin in order for him to be free. Why? Because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins” (Heb. 9:22, *The Living Bible*). Look at these verses:

For He [God] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**, brackets mine

Who Himself [Christ] bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.

**1 Peter 2:24a**, brackets mine

Jesus died in man's place. This was a big part of God's plan! Jesus said—

*“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”*

**Luke 24:46-47**, *Revised Standard Version*

What motivated God to do this for man? Jesus said it was God's great love! Read here:

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

**John 3:16**

Paul wrote—

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 5:8**

God loves for man is *constantly* seen in Jesus' death on the cross!

Another reason Jesus' death was necessary is because while God is forgiving, He is also just:

For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, [26] for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

**Romans 3:25-26**, *New Living Translation*

So, while Jesus could pardon people's sins during His earthly ministry, freedom from sin wasn't possible until after He died and rose again!

Now, how does faith in Jesus and His sacrifice free man from sin, as the previous passage mentioned? Paul explained that it is by being united with Jesus through baptism:

How can we now continue to wallow in sin, if it was sin that we died to? [3] Don't you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with Him in His death? [4] Realize this: Our baptism in water pictured the fact that we had died to our old life of sin, and that the old life was now being buried with Christ. But then, just as Christ rose from the dead thru the power of the Father, we too, by that same power, are raised from death to live in the freshness of a new life. [5] Because if we have become joined with Christ in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. [6] Also realize that our old evil self was nailed to the cross with Him, so that the sinful person we were would be destroyed, and we would no longer be slaves to sin. [7] Because sin has no power over anyone who is dead.

**Romans 6:2b-7, *The Last Days Bible***

That's powerful!

Now, after Jesus died and rose again, the Apostle Peter told Jews from every nation to repent and be baptized, just like Paul wrote about in the previous passage. But Peter added something:

"Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

**Acts 2:38, *New Living Translation*, brackets mine**

What was the correlation of the Holy Spirit to the forgiveness of sins? What did the Holy Spirit have to do with freedom from sin? Everything! Someone might say, "But I thought Jesus said *He* was going to free people from sin." True. But, as we read in the previous article, He also said, "**I tell you [disciples] the truth – it is better for you that I go away**" (John 16:7, *Disciples' Literal New Testament*, brackets mine). Why did He said this? Keep reading. He said in the latter part of this verse—

**"For if I do not go away, the Comforter [the Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go I will send him to you."**

***Darby's Translation*, brackets mine**

Better to have the Holy Spirit than Jesus!? Absolutely! Why? The answer to this is how Jesus was able to leave His disciples and yet remain with them—it was through His resurrection, in the person of the Holy Spirit! Paul wrote—

So there is now no longer any judgment of the second death awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. Because they no longer seek to live right solely by means of their own will and determination, but with the powerful help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. [2] Because the power of life thru Christ Jesus has not only granted me forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, but also power thru Him to be set free from the power that the law of sin had over me, which if I had continued in, would have sent me to the second death.

**Romans 8:1-2, *The Last Days Bible***

He gives further explanation here:

But you are not living the life of the flesh, you are living the life of the Spirit, if the [Holy] Spirit of God [really] dwells within you [directs and controls you]. But if anyone does not possess the [Holy] Spirit of Christ, he is none of His [he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God]. [10] But if Christ lives in you, [then although] your [natural] body is dead by reason of sin and guilt, the spirit is alive because of [the] righteousness [that He imputes to you]. [11] And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you. [12] So then, brethren, we are debtors, but not to the flesh [we are not obligated to our carnal nature], to live [a life ruled by the standards set up by the dictates] of the flesh. [13] For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh, you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy] Spirit you are [habitually] putting to death (making extinct, deadening) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body, you shall [really and genuinely] live forever. [14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing sonship] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!

**Romans 8:9-15, *Amplified Bible***

This passage explains how man could at last be free from sin! Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, was man's freedom! The Bible says—

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

Praise God!

## Conclusion

The Book of Acts and the Epistles after it really pick up where Jesus left off in the Gospels. That's why Jesus told His disciples—

**“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. [13] However, when He, the Spirit of truth [the Holy Spirit], has come, He will guide you into all truth.”**

**John 16:12-13**, brackets mine

As you read on past the Gospels, you'll discover new terms and concepts, which build on what Jesus said and did in the Gospels. That's because the Holy Spirit was doing exactly what Jesus said He would do—guiding people into all truth! My hope is that you will continue to read and to study, as the Bible says—

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**2 Timothy 2:15**, *King James Version*

But study the Word with an eye toward Jesus, for it essentially points to Him. That's what He told the Jews the Scriptures were for:

**“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. [40] But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”**

**John 5:39-40**

As I conclude, a man I consider to be a mentor to me, Don Krow, instructed me to write down the things God had revealed to me, that there were people beyond my Bible study or sphere of influence who needed to know about them. I took this as a mandate from God, just like the church at Thessalonica did with Paul's words:

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

With fervency, I have written this book. I believe that this is the culmination of my life's work thus far, in terms of study, prayer, devotion, and experience. Therefore, my hope, too, is that through these articles, you have understood Jesus in a way that maybe you haven't and you have drawn some strong conclusions about Him for your life!

I recently came across this next passage, and it rocked my world, so I want to share it with you:



For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. [16] To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? [17] For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

**2 Corinthians 2:15-17**

This is exactly what I've tried to do with this book! So, may the things I've written here lead *you* to life, which can only be found in Jesus. Amen!

**[truthinseason@gmail.com](mailto:truthinseason@gmail.com)**