



Saving the Souls of Our Sons and Daughters

Lesson Six Continued

Last Week

- We need Jesus to save us from our sins; we learned:
 - That He is the only Savior
 - That we must come to Him His way
 - That it is a sin to refuse to obey the Gospel
- We need Jesus as our intercessor; we learned
 - That no Christian is perfect regardless of age
 - That Jesus continues to save us

This Week

- We need Jesus as a guiding example
- We need Jesus to give meaning to life
- We need Jesus for daily strength
- We need Jesus for victory over death

We Need Jesus As A Guiding Example

- God has always known that there is great power in examples
 - 1Cor. 10:6 - “Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted”
 - 1Cor. 11:1 - “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”
 - Eph. 5:1 - “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

We Need Jesus As A Guiding Example

- 1Thes. 1:6 - “And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit”
- Titus 2:7 - “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works”
- Heb. 13:7 - “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.”

We Need Jesus As A Guiding Example

- Jesus is the perfect example from Whom we can learn to live.
- Resisting temptation - Matt. 4:1-11
- Bearing with suffering
 - Matt. 26:39 - “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will”

We Need Jesus As A Guiding Example

- Willingness to forgive
 - 1Peter 2:21-22 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”
 - Luke 23:34 - “Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”
- When making moral choices, we should ask, “What did Jesus do?”

We Need Jesus To Give Meaning To Life

- “They have everything in this life and nothing to live for.”
 - Ecc. 1:14 - “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.”
- Jesus gives meaning and purpose to life and makes it fulfilling.

We Need Jesus To Give Meaning To Life

- We are here because we were created by God. He has a purpose for us.
- Gifted with free will, we can choose to bring our lives into subjection to Christ or into rebellion against God

We Need Jesus To Give Meaning To Life

- 2Cor. 5:10-11 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.”
- Ecc. 12:13-14 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”

We Need Jesus To Give Meaning To Life

- Jesus fills the void in our lives
 - Matt. 5:6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”
 - John 4:13-14 - “Jesus answered and said to her, Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
 - John 6:35 - “And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

We Need Jesus For Daily Strength

- Some things in this life are difficult to face alone
 - Phil. 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
 - 2Tim. 4:16-17 - “At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.”

We Need Jesus For Daily Strength

- God is our refuge in trouble
 - Psalm 56:3-4 - “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”
 - Psalm 46:1-2 - “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea”
 - 1Peter 5:6-7 - “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

We Need Jesus For Victory Over Death

- Fear of dying is a universal human experience
 - Heb. 2:14-15 - “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

We Need Jesus For Victory Over Death

- Jesus brought life and immortality through the Gospel
 - 2Tim. 1:10 - “But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”
- There will be a resurrection
 - John 11:25 - “Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”

We Need Jesus For Victory Over Death

- There is hope for Christians
 - John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

We Need Jesus For Victory Over Death

- 1Peter 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Introduction To Lesson Seven

- Solomon speaks of the moral advantage of the young
 - Ecc. 12:1 - “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them”
- Today’s youth are unfairly characterized

The Spiritual Mindedness of Youth

- “Our youths love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority. They show disrespect for their elders and love to chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the subjects of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, babble before company, gobble up food, and tyrannize their teachers.”
- *(Socrates in about 400 BC)*

The Spiritual Mindedness of Youth

- The Bible speaks favorably of youth
 - Youth is a time for great service to God - Ecc. 12:1
 - Youth is the experience that provides a foundation for life - Eph. 6:1-4
 - The most important decisions are made in our youth - Prov. 2:10-20
 - Youth has potential for spiritual greatness - 1Tim. 4:12; 1John 2:13
 - Youth is intended to be a happy time - Ecc. 11:9-10

The Spiritual Mindedness of Youth

- The Bible presents examples of young people that pleased God
- The Bible gives a balanced and fair representation of young people.
- The Bible shows us that there were good and bad, wise and foolish, moral and immoral youths.
- Young people who have chosen to please God and excelled at it: Joseph, Samuel, Esther, Daniel, Ruth, Jeremiah, Josiah, and Mary

The Young Are Often More Spiritually Minded Than The Aged

- Results of A Study: What Teenagers Look for in a Church. The Barna Group researchers asked 2,409 teenagers aged 13 to 18 why they would attend a worship service at a church or temple. Here is what they said:

<u>Reason:</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Total Importance</u>
to worship or make a connection with God	45%	66%
to understand better what I believe	42	71
to spend time with close friends	34	63
to get encouraged and inspired	34	62
to volunteer to help others	30	65
to learn more about prayer	26	55
to listen to religious teaching	26	54
to participate in a discussion regarding	23	51
to be mentored spiritual development	21	49
to discover the traditions of my religious faith	20	53
to participate in a study class about faith	19	46
to participate in a study of sacred Scripture	18	36

(Source: The Barna Group, Ltd. YouthPollSM 2005)

The Young Are Often More Spiritually Minded Than The Aged

- The top fifteen things that teenagers ask about when given the chance to do so anonymously:
- How do I know what God's will is for me?
- What's wrong with rock/country/rap music? How can you tell what music is good and what is bad?
- What do you do if you have parents/siblings who are living the wrong way? (one way in church, another way at home, dad on the internet) How do you avoid wrong influences when you live with them?
- How do you take a stand with your friends/what do you do when you have a friend that is becoming rebellious?
- How do you separate from bad friends without hurting them or making them think you're stuck up? How can I be a witness to my friends and still be accepted?

The Young Are Often More Spiritually Minded Than The Aged

- What's dangerous or wrong with being physical before marriage?
- Why is it so hard to be consistent in the Christian life as a teenager?
- What is appropriate and modest clothing for a Christian and why?
- What's wrong with my parents' separation or divorce?
- How do you get over/deal with a broken relationship (dating & friendships)?
- Why does God allow trials/temptations to come into our lives?
- What does having a relationship/walk with God really mean?
- Should I consider going to a religious college and why?
- In dealing with authority, how can I explain things or make a point without sounding argumentative or disrespectful? Why do authority figures sometimes assume they know what you are thinking?
- How do I deal with people and problems in my life that have hurt me deeply?

The Young Are Often More Spiritually Minded Than The Aged

- Psalm 119:9 - “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”
- Jer. 29:11 - “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”