

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 31

Lesson 31 - Signs of the Times, Repentance, Crippled Woman, Mustard Seed

Background:

This lesson continues the theme from the previous lesson - the focus is on Jesus providing instructions to His disciples. Jesus explains clearly that there is great danger in ignoring the signs of the times. The theme of an imminent judgement continues. Whether Jesus was referring to the upcoming destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD or judgement to come is unclear. Nevertheless, the theme is still relevant for us today. The final section of the lesson is about the ongoing conflicts with the Pharisees.

Scripture Passage:

Read: [Luke 12:54-13:21](#); [John 10:22-39](#)

Read the Following Quote:

"Jesus warned the Jews of the fearful consequences of rejecting Him, both in terms of political destruction and in terms of rejection by God on the day of judgement. At the same times He warned His disciples to stand firm in the days of trial that lay ahead and to be ready for the coming of their Master. In the event, destruction came upon Judea in the war with Rome (AD66-70), but the return of the Lord is still awaited." [I. Howard Marshall \(University of Aberdeen\)](#)

Question:

Why did Jesus warn His disciples to "stand firm in the days of trial"? How can that advice help us today?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Luke 12:54-59](#)

Interpretation of the Times.

1. Why do you think that Jesus compared the weather with the "present time"? (Verses 54-55) Is it important today to understand what is going on politically? Why or why not?

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2. Jesus talks about the need to be discerning and judge carefully. He uses the illustration of someone being dragged off to the courts and suggests that a person would rather be reconciled with his enemy than go to prison. Do you think that Jesus is comparing prison to hell in verses 57-59? Discuss.

Repent or Perish [Luke 13:1-9](#)

3. What two incidents of people failing to read the signs does Jesus now use? What is the warning that Jesus gives those who are listening? (verses 1-5)

4. Jesus now tells the story of a fruitless fig tree. What does the owner plan to do with the fig tree? What does the caretaker suggest? How do you think that this might relate to us today? (verses 6-9)

A Crippled Woman is Healed Read [Luke 13:10-17](#)

5. What day was it, and where was Jesus teaching? Describe the woman and how Jesus healed her in these verses. Would you still be faithful to God if you were crippled 18 years?

6. What is the reaction of the synagogue leader? Why do you think he was more concerned about the law than seeing the woman healed? Why did he not rejoice with the people? Are you ever guilty of using laws to prevent people coming to Jesus for healing? (verse 14)

7. Who, or what did Jesus compare to the woman? Jesus calls the synagogue leader a hypocrite – why?

Mustard Seed and Yeast, Read [Luke 13:18-21](#)

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8. What two things did Jesus compare to the Kingdom of God in these 4 verses? (verses 18-19) What do you know about mustard seeds? What do you know about the impact of using yeast? Why do you think Jesus compares these two things to the Kingdom of God? How does this passage affect us today?

The Sign of Jonah, Read [John 10:22-39](#)

9. What feast is described in this passage and in which city and at which time of year did this incident take place? What question do the Jewish leaders have for Jesus? What is Jesus' response in verses 25-26?

10. How does Jesus describe His sheep? What does Jesus promise His sheep? Why do you think that Jesus described His followers as sheep?

11. In verse 30 Jesus states, "I and the Father are one." Does this answer the question posed in verse 24? Do you believe that Jesus is God? What makes you think that?

True or False:

- a. Jesus accused some people of being hypocritical.
- b. Jesus called a crippled woman then healed her.
- c. The synagogue leader was accused of being a hypocrite.
- d. The kingdom of God is like yeast and apple seeds.
- e. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one."
- f. The Jewish leaders threatened to stone Jesus then crucify Him.

Discuss:

How does it feel to be compared to a sheep? How should we treat those who need help on Sundays? Do you think that God's kingdom is getting larger or smaller?

Suggested Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us to be kind and compassionate to those who are struggling and need help. Teach us how to see your kingdom here and know when*

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you are at work. Help us to be confident in sharing the truth that Jesus is God – even if it brings persecution. We thank you for the example of Jesus who always knew what us to say. Teach us what to say in difficult situations, in Jesus name, we pray.

For Further Reading:

[Galilean Blood Mixed With Sacrifices](#)

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