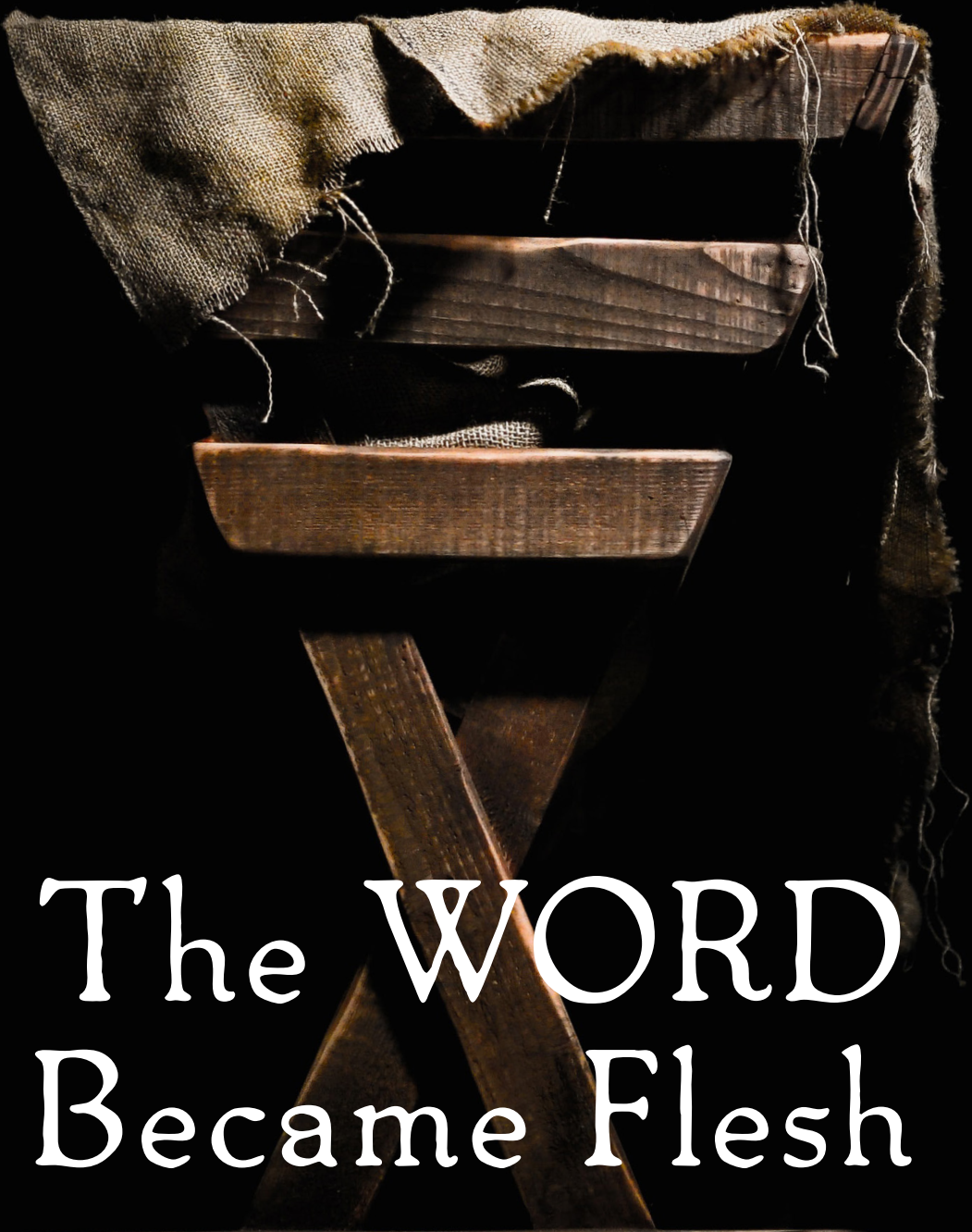


JOHN'S GOSPEL 10 STEP 1



The WORD Became Flesh

 CAMPUS MISSION
INTERNATIONAL

The WORD Became Flesh

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward	4
Introduction & Analysis	5
Step 01 - The Word became Flesh (1:1-18).....	7
Step 02 - Live as the Light of Men (1:19-28).....	13
Step 03 - A Picture of Church Revitalization (1:29-51).....	19
Step 04 - Jesus Changes Water into Wine (2:1-13)	25
Step 05 - Jesus Cleansed the Temple (2:13-25).....	31
Step 06 - For God So Loved the World (3:1-21).....	37
Step 07 - He Must Increase (3:22-36)	43
Step 08 - Fill My Cup Lord (4:1-26)	49
Step 09 - Lift Up Your Eyes and See (4:27-42).....	55
Step 10 - Thankfulness that Causes a Miracle (4:43-54).....	61

FORWARD

The prophet Amos who lived during 767 BC prophesied about the coming of spiritual famine and drought, saying,

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Sovereign Lord, ‘when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. In that day, the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst’” (Amos 8:11-13).

It seems that our time is the very time Amos prophesied about. There is a phrase in a certain hymn that describes our time, “There are many who shout God’s word, yet the well has been dried up.” This is why not many are truly devoted to Christ but devoted to the earth-bound life in this world.

Christianity doesn’t shine the light on our dark society. Rather, we disgrace the name of God among the un-believers because of our hypocrisy. The fundamental cause of this problem is the lack of God’s words in our time.

Therefore, it is very precious that we study the Gospel of John. In John’s gospel, we encounter The Word who became flesh. We find the fountain of living water that quenches our thirst. We experience the true light that drives our darkness away. We meet the Good Shepherd who leads us to green pasture. He is Jesus Christ, the Incarnate God.

Let us experience Jesus who came to give us life and have it to the full through John’s gospel study (Jn 10:10b).

January 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Author

John the Apostle

Date

85-90AD

Purpose

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (Jn 20:31).

Theme

- 1) Jesus Christ is the Word who was with God in the beginning.
- 2) Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to die for the sins of the world.

Key Verse

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

ANALYSIS

- I. The Prologue (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus' Self-Disclosure in Word and Deed (1:19-10:42)
- III. Transition: Life and Death, King and Suffering Servant (11:1-12:50)
- IV. Jesus' Self-Disclosure in His Cross and Exaltation (13:1-20:31)
- V. Epilogue (21:1-25)

STEP 01

The Word became Flesh

John 1:1-18

Introduction

There are four gospels in the NT. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Scholars say, Mark was written first, Matthew and Luke next and then John. Matthew describes Jesus as a King, Mark as a servant, Luke as the Son of Man and John as God. The three gospels describe the life story of Jesus but John specifically chooses seven miracles and important teaching of Jesus. It has a clear purpose for people who believe Jesus is the Christ and have eternal life (20:31).

1. Read Verses 1-2. How many times do you see “the Word” in these verses? Who is the Word? What is the true identity of Jesus? What did Jesus do (3)? Why did Jesus create all things (Col 1:16)? ¹

¹ **Col 1:16** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.

2. Read verse 14. In what sense, is it great, "The Word became flesh"? What did God sacrifice when He became flesh? What was his purpose that He came to this world? ²

² In Greek word, dwelt means putting up a tent. In the OT, the tent of Meeting was the symbol of God's glorious Presence.

3. What should be our response to this great love of God (4)? In what sense, we have only true life in Jesus (9)? What were two responses of people toward Jesus (10-12)? Why should we witness Jesus (6-7; Ro 10:14-15)? What happens when we witness Jesus (5)?³

³ **Ro 10:14-15** ¹⁴ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ How Live as the Light of Men beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Reflection

STEP 02

Live as the Light of Men

John 1:19-28

Introduction

Through the prologue of John's gospel, we've learned that Jesus is God but He became flesh to die for us. By believing in Him, we have life and we live as His light. Today, we'll learn how we should live as Christians, witnessing Jesus. Today, John the apostle introduces John the Baptist who faithfully witnessed Jesus. Mark 1:1-2 say, "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way.'" John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus; he dedicated his whole life to fulfill this purpose. His example tells us three things.

1. Why did the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem send priests and Levites to John the Baptist (19; Lk 3:15)? What does it tell you about John's life? What kind of life did John live (Mk 1:6)? What result do we see in John's humble life (Mk 1:5)? How can we emit the aroma of Christ in our life? ⁴

⁴ **Lk 3:15** The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

Mk 1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

Mk 1:5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

2. What were the answers of John the Baptist to the questions of the priests and Levites from Jerusalem (20-21)? Why did he answer shorter and shorter? How did John testify about himself when the investigators kept on asking about his identity (22-23)? What do you learn from John's answer that he was just a voice in the desert?

3. What was John's answer toward the challenge of the investigators (26-27)? What can you learn from John about being a witness of Jesus? How can we testify only Jesus (2 Cor 3:18)? ⁵

⁵ **2 Cor 3:18** We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Reflection

STEP 03

A Picture of Church Revitalization

John 1:29-51

Introduction

Through the prologue, we've learned that Jesus is God but He became flesh to die for us. By believing in Him, we have life and we live as His light. So we should not only enjoy salvation in Christ but also witness Him to this dark world. In this text, we'll learn about John the Baptist, Andrew and Philip, who all set a good example of witnessing Jesus.

1. What did John say when he saw Jesus coming toward him (29)? What did John mean when he called Jesus, "The Lamb of God"? How did John recognize Jesus as the Lamb of God (32-33)? What attitude do we learn from John as the witness of Jesus (31, 35-36)?

2. What did Jesus ask John's disciples and what was their answer to Jesus (38)? What did they mean by "Rabbi, where are you staying"? What did Andrew do right after meeting Jesus (41)? What did Jesus say to Simon when he came to Jesus? What is the first priority in your life?

3. What does Jesus' calling of Philip tell us about the variety of God's work (43)? What did Philip do after meeting Jesus (45)? How did Philip help Nathanael, the skeptical one (46)? How did Jesus help Nathanael (47-52)?⁶

⁶ Simple evangelism is the answer of today's college ministry.

Care: show concern for the person & concern for your life before him.

Dare: it takes courage to witness--courage if the person is a stranger to you, and even more if the person is a close friend or relative.

Share: If you want to make a lasting impression, share yourself with the person. Get involved in his interests, get your shoulder under his burden, be genuinely glad when he has a success.

Prayer: Don't discount the effectiveness of prayer in the preparation of people's hearts for the Good News.

Adapted from S. Briscoe, Getting Into God, p.92

Reflection

STEP 04

Jesus Changes Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

Introduction

Jesus' first sign of changing the water into wine has a spiritual significance. First, it teaches us that Jesus came to change people. Just as water and wine are completely different, Jesus changes us into a new creation. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Co 5:17). Sinners become children of God in Christ. Second, it reminds us of the wedding banquet of heaven. Jesus' public ministry started with the wedding of Cana and the consummation of His work is the wedding of the Lamb in heaven. Therefore, our true hope is not on earth but in the kingdom of God.

1. What serious problem occurred at the wedding of Cana (1-3a)? How did Mary try to solve this problem (3b)? How did Jesus respond to his mother's plea for help (4)? Why did Jesus coldly refuse? How did Mary provide a spiritual environment in which Jesus could work (5)? What can we learn from her about prayer?

2. What did Jesus tell the servants to do (6-7)? Why was it difficult for them to obey? How did the servants obey Jesus? What do you learn here about a Christians' obedience?

3. When they filled the jars, what did Jesus say to the servants (8)? What was the response of the servants? What happened through the obedience of the servants (9-10)? What does this event teach you about obedience? What was the result of this miracle (11)?

Reflection

STEP 05

Jesus Cleansed the Temple

John 2:13-25

Introduction

We learned about Jesus' first sign of changing the water into wine. Jesus is full of grace in it. In our text today, we see Jesus who is completely different. Jesus drives out animals and merchants from the temple with a whip and overturned money-changers' table. In it, Jesus is full of righteousness. This is only one time that Jesus was really angry in the NT. It shows us that God is angry when His church is corrupted. So, let's think what our life and church should be like.

1. What did Jesus do at the Jerusalem temple (13-16)? Why was He very angry? What kind of people and church should we be (16; Mk 11:17)? ⁷

⁷ **Mk 11:17** Is it not written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations." But you have made it a den of robbers.

2. When the disciples saw Jesus clearing the temple, what was the disciples' response (17; Ps 69:9)? When we have no zeal for God, what happens in our life (Rev 3:16)? How can we restore our zeal for God (Rev 2:4-5)?⁸

⁸ **Ps 69:9** Zeal for your house will consume me.

Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Rev 2:4-5 ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

3. What then did the Jews demand Jesus (18)? What did Jesus say to the Jews (19)? What did Jesus mean by it (21-22)? What do you learn from Jesus who committed Himself to God's purpose (Gal 2:20)? What is God's purpose in your life? ⁹

⁹ **Gal 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Reflection

STEP 06

For God So Loved the World

John 3:1-21

Introduction

Our text today is the most fundamental and important truth in Christianity for it tells us what God's number one desire is and how we can be saved from sin and death. God's number one desire is for us to be saved from eternal destruction. This is the very reason why Jesus Christ the Son of God came to this world. Luke 19:10 says, "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." The Holy Spirit also came to fulfill this purpose. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the end of the earth" (Ac 1:8). Therefore, there is nothing more important than our salvation.

1. What kind of person was Nicodemus, socially, politically and religiously (1, 10, 19:39)? Why did he come to Jesus at night (2)? Based on what Jesus said, "You must be born again", what did Nicodemus' truly need (Eccl 1:18)? ¹⁰

¹⁰ **19:39** Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.
Eccl 1:18 For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

2. How did Jesus explain the way to be born anew (4-8)? What was Nicodemus' understanding like (9)? How did Jesus help him to understand the spiritual birth (10-13; Ez 36:25-26)? Have you experienced the limitation of an intellectual world? What change do you see from Nicodemus later on (7:50-52; 19:39)? ¹¹

11 Ez 36:25-26 ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.... ²⁶ I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

7:50-52 ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, ⁵¹ "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" ⁵² They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and see that no prophet arises from Galilee."

19:39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.

3. In order to help Nicodemus to understand the truth of new birth, Jesus told the incident of a bronze snake in Number 21:4-9. What kinds of lessons do you see from this incident? How is this story related to the story of Jesus' salvation in His cross (14-15)? What do you learn about God's love in it (16)? ¹²

12 Num 21:4-9 ⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Reflection

STEP 07

He Must Increase

John 3:22-36

Introduction

What is the most meaningful and precious life to live as God's children? It is to live a life that exalts Jesus Christ. John the Baptist sought to live such a life when he said, "He must increase but I must decrease" (30). Jesus commented on John in this way: "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist" (Mt 11:11a). So how can we also live such a great life? Who is Jesus and why should we exalt him instead of exalting ourselves in our life?

1. In what way do verses 22-24 show the transitional period of time? What did the disciples of John the Baptist say to John (25-26)? What was John's reply (27-28)? What do we learn from John the Baptist about our life purpose? What is your life purpose?

2. What was the role of the friends of the bridegroom in Israeli wedding (29)? What was John's joy as the forerunner of Jesus? Why did John say that Jesus should be increased and he himself should be decreased (30; Mt 6:10)? How can we fulfill this will of God that Christ being increased in our life? ¹³

¹³ **Mt 6:10** Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

3. Why did John positively witness Jesus (31)? What happens when one receives Jesus (33-34)? What do you learn here about the close connection between the words and the Holy Spirit? What does Jesus do to His believers (Ac 2:33; Ro 5:5)? What kind of life do we live in the fullness of the Spirit (36)?¹⁴

¹⁴ **Acts 2:33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Ro 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

The Reason why Jesus Needs to be Increased

Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: "I wish I had never been born."

Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure if anyone did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and grief are mine alone."

Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said: "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed his great fame. He wrote: "Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret."

Where then is real joy found? – The answer is simple, in Christ alone. As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: "It's a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. These people are the Christians--and I am one of them."

Reflection

STEP 08

Fill My Cup Lord

John 4:1-26

Introduction

Water is very important for our life for 70% of our body is composed with water. When you lack 1-2% of water, you feel thirst. When you lose 5-10% of water, you become semiconscious. When you lose 12% of water, you even lose your life. Around 5000 children die daily because they drink dirty water. In the same way, we need spiritual water Jesus gives us. People try to fill their emptiness with pleasure, money, party, fame and so on. St. Augustine who, tried to fill his empty soul with pleasure and fame, confessed in the end, "Humans have an empty room that can never be filled except God."

1. What favor did Jesus ask of the woman who came to draw water (7)? What kind of barrier was between Jesus and the woman (9)? What do you learn from Jesus, who spoke to the woman first?

2. In what way did Jesus draw the woman's attention (10)? How did the woman see Jesus (11-12)? What water did Jesus want to give the woman (13-14)? What is the limitation of Jacob's water (Jer 2:13)? In what sense is Jesus' water the living water welling up to eternal life (Jn 7:37-39; Rev 7:16-17)? What should we do to get the living water of Jesus (15)?¹⁵

¹⁵ **Jer 2:13** for my people have committed two evils: 'they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

John 7:37-39 ³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

Rev 7:16 ¹⁶ 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

3. In what way did Jesus help relieve the deep thirst in her life (16-18)? What is causing the thirst in your life? When the woman started to share her concern about the right worship, how did Jesus help her (19-24)? Who is this Jesus that the Samaritan woman met (26)?

Reflection

STEP 09

Lift Up Your Eyes and See

John 4:27-42

Introduction

What do you see when you open your eyes in the morning? Check your email, see facebook, text messages, or news? These days, I try to sleep at least six hours (deep sleep two hours). So I check Mi Fit first. In our text, Jesus says to His disciples, "Look, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest" (4:35). Jesus wants His people to see the spiritual fields that are white for harvest; He wants us to participate in His work of salvation.

1. What was the disciples' response when they saw Jesus talking with a woman (27)? In what way, did the woman share her joy of meeting Jesus (28-30)? What do you learn from her effective way of evangelizing people?

2. What did Jesus say to the disciples who urged him to eat (31-32)? What is Jesus' food (34)? What does it teach us that Jesus' food is to do the will of the Father? What vision did Jesus share with his disciples (35; Mt 9:37-38; Ac 1:8)? What vision do you have? ¹⁶

¹⁶ **Mt 9:37-38** ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

3. In what way, have we received the wages for gathering fruit for eternal life (36a; 2 Co 5:14, 19-20)? What happens in spiritual harvesting (36b-37)? What does Jesus say about our evangelism (38)? What was the result of the Samaritan woman's evangelism (39-42; 1 Cor 1:21)? What did you learn newly about evangelism? ¹⁷

¹⁷ **2 Cor 5:14** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

2 Cor 5:19-20 ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

1 Cor 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Reflection

STEP 10

Thankfulness that Causes a Miracle

John 4:43-54

Introduction

Do you know what the ultimate goal of our faith is? It is not about gaining what we want, but thanking God and glorifying Him: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thes 5:16-18). Our thanksgiving is very precious for we fulfill our goal in faith.

1. Where did Jesus go after two days (43-46)? Who came to Jesus to ask for His help (46-47)? What can you learn about the meaning of sufferings in our life (Ro 8:28)? What should our attitude be toward suffering (Ro 5:2-4)? ¹⁸

¹⁸ **Ro 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose.

Ro 5:2-4 ²We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and ⁴ endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

* There is a saying, "God's blessing comes to us being wrapped by sufferings." Malcolm Muggeridge, a British author, and satirist, said, "Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my 75 years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my experience, has been through affliction and not through happiness" (In *Homemade*, July, 1990).

2. What was Jesus' reply to the royal official's plea (48)? Why did Jesus respond this way? What did the royal official do (49)? What should we do in times of trials (Phil 4:6-7)? Why should we give thanks to God in our prayer? ¹⁹

19 Phil 4:6-7 ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

3. What did Jesus say to the royal official (50a)? How did the official respond to Jesus (50b)? What did he find out (51-54)? What kind of faith did the official have (Jn 20:29)? What should we do with our difficulties? ²⁰

²⁰ **Jn 20:29** Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Reflection

Prayer Topics

Prayer Topics

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