

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson One

INTRODUCTION TO THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Burden to Impart:

In this first lesson we want to impress the children that the Lord Jesus was the unique and special One sent from God. He is the "Christ," the anointed One of God, sent to solve all of man's problems and needs, the two greatest of which are sin and death. He was able to do this because He was more than just a good man, a wise teacher, or a prophet: He is the Christ, the Son of God. He came to give us life, and He does this through His Word. This is the most important matter. He did not do great signs and miracles just so that we would believe in His divine power to heal or work miracles. He worked miracles so that people would believe in He Himself, receive the life of God, be born again, and enter into God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"
(John 20:31).

Facts to Teach:

1. The source of all of man's problems is sin (Rom. 5:12), and just as God had warned Adam in the garden, the result of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). However, weakness, sickness, and disease firstly come to make people miserable, to ruin and sadden man's weak and frail human life, which is finally overcome by death.

2. The Lord Jesus came to meet every man's need. He did this by serving God and ministering to those around Him. After He was baptized at thirty years of age, He carried out His earthly ministry for 3 1/2 years until he was crucified, resurrected, and ascended.

3. The chief burden in His ministry was two-fold: to give God's life to the people (John 10:10) and ultimately, to die on the cross to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

4. The Lord Jesus preached God's marvelous way of salvation to people (Heb. 2:3) and told them how they could be born of God and enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5). This was the most important aspect of His ministry to men. He came to give them life, and He gave them life by the words that He spoke (John 6:63).

5. If the people would believe in Him and believe His words they would be saved from their sins, from judgment, and from death (John 5:24). If they refused to believe in Him and rejected His words, they would die in their sins (John 8:24) and must be judged with God's wrath (John 3:36). He was the Prophet that God had long ago promised to send (Deut. 18:15), that would speak the Word of God and show us the way of salvation; we must "hear Him" (Matt. 17:5).

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Lesson One (Continued)

6. One of the ways that people knew that Jesus was not just an ordinary preacher or teacher was by the many miracles He performed. It was obvious that He was very, very special because He did things that only God could do (things that are beyond man's ability and even defy the laws of nature, such as calming the stormy sea, walking on water, etc.). Those who were honest and sincere realized by the signs that He was indeed a "teacher sent from God" and that "God was with Him" (John 3:2).

7. As Jesus preached God's Word and taught God's way of salvation, God confirmed that it was all true by working many signs and wonders (Heb. 2:3). Although the Lord Jesus' ministry was so very short (only about 3 1/2 years) and He personally never wrote any book about His teachings, yet what He said and did was so extraordinary that even today, almost 2,000 years later, in every country of the world it is still being told and written about. More books have been written about the Lord Jesus than any other person on the earth, and more Bibles have been printed than any other book for more than forty years. Also the Bible, which reveals the Lord Jesus, has been translated into more than 1,200 languages and dialects.

8. The Gospels were written so that we might really know the Lord Jesus; might know by both what He did and by what He said. We should come to know and believe that He is the Christ (the special One appointed and sent by God into the world to accomplish His purpose) and that He is the Son of God (John 20:31).

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON ONE

1. What are the two main problems of mankind? (Rom. 5:12)
2. What are the two main reasons Jesus came to mankind? (John 1:29; 10:10)
3. Who is the Lord Jesus (John 20:31)
4. What did the Lord Jesus come to teach us? (Heb. 2:3; John 3:5)
5. What happens to those who believe in the Lord Jesus? (John 5:24)
6. What happens to those who refuse to believe in the Lord Jesus and His words? (John 8:24; John 3:36)
7. What is one of the ways by which we may know that Jesus was truly sent from God and is the Son of God? (John 3:2; Heb. 2:3)