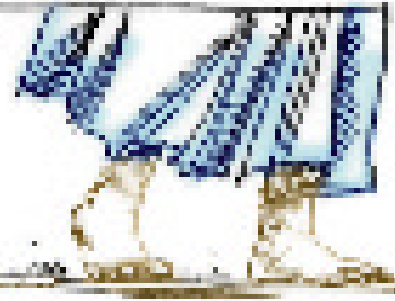


Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 13 / Page 1

Loving Our Lord

1. Disciples, or followers of Jesus Christ, have their eyes fixed on the goal of their inheritance. This destination transforms the way they think, plan and live. Read more words of perspective from our brother Simon Peter. Meditate on I Peter 1:3-9. He's speaking to you about your inheritance! Write out some phrases below that impress you:

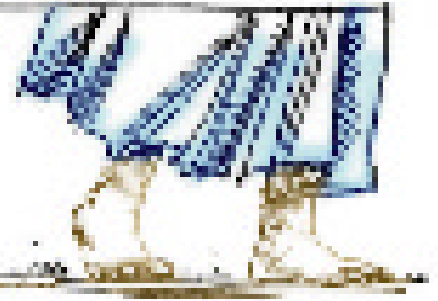
2. This is your living hope (I Peter 1:3)! This hope will not disappoint and cannot be taken away from you. How does this passage encourage you in your circumstances today? _____

Learning His Word

1. Peter and Andrew left their nets to follow when Jesus simply said, "Come, follow Me." What did they know about what was ahead at this point? (See Matthew 4:19-20.) _____
 - a. "Come" was an invitation to a relationship. "Follow" was a call to discipleship. Compare this short request with the longer version from Matthew 11:28-30.
 - (1) Write out the phrase that speaks of a relationship. _____
 - (2) Write out the phrase that speaks of discipleship. _____
 - (3) What phrase in this invitation is reassuring to those who respond? _____
 - b. Jesus was not only asking Peter to live a life of *purpose* (follow), but the invitation to come connects him with *power* through a personal relationship with Jesus. At this point, do you think Peter was connecting with the person of Jesus or with His cause? _____
 - c. Two thousand years later Jesus' invitation remains the same. He invites us to *come* and to *follow*. Peter had his life planned out. He thought his purpose in life was to catch and sell fish. Loving Jesus changed all of that. Do you realize that your love for Jesus will change your purpose as well? What are some ways this love already has? _____

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- d. Peter must have felt a twinge of fear because Jesus tells him to not be afraid (Luke 5:10). Are you open to more changes? What scares you about being a follower? _____

- e. How does the passage from I Peter 1:3-9 (Loving Our Lord) encourage you? _____

2. Jesus tells us to teach others what we have been taught by Him. Peter heard Jesus teach and then He watched Jesus live out His words. Let's review what Jesus taught so we have a clear understanding of what we are to pass on. Jesus' summarizes His whole Sermon on the Mount before He gives it. He expounds on these points in the next several passages. Read this passage slowly with the mindset that you are learning from Jesus. Read His summary in Matthew 5:1-12. Who is blessed? _____

3. Matthew 5-7 records Jesus' words. Your Bible has it broken into sections according to the topic on which Jesus taught. Pick two topics below that interest you and write out what Jesus taught on that subject. Take your time and try writing in a way that you think *you* would communicate this point to a friend or loved one. You can do more than two if you have the time (we need to know them all)! Feel free to write on the back of this page if you need more space.
 - a. Salt and light _____

 - b. Fulfillment of the Law _____

 - c. Murder _____

 - d. Adultery _____

 - e. Divorce _____

 - f. Oaths _____

 - g. Eye for an eye _____

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h. Love for enemies _____

i. Giving to the needy _____

j. Prayer _____

k. Fasting _____

l. Treasures in heaven _____

m. Worry _____

n. Judging others _____

o. Ask, seek, knock _____

p. The narrow and wide gates _____

q. A tree and its fruit _____

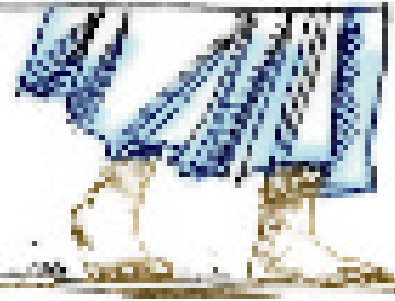
4. Jesus concluded this sermon with a warning. Read Matthew 7:24-27. What does He say and how does this impact you? _____

5. The crowds were amazed at His teaching. Why, according to Matthew 7:28-29? _____

6. In what ways does His teaching amaze you? _____

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7. This sermon along with the parables and talks with Jesus was like being in the classroom with Jesus being the professor. Peter tried to take it all in. However, soon Jesus would give him some on the job training. Peter would be asked to step out way before he understood all there is to know about the kingdom of God. Sometimes we feel like we don't know enough to talk to others about Christ and what He taught. Off the top of your head quickly write three things you know to be true about Jesus. _____

8. See! You already have good news to pass on to someone else! Remember Jesus' promise from Matthew 28:20: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." How does this promise encourage you to enroll in Jesus' on the job training course? _____

9. What is the core message of our faith according to II Corinthians 5:18-20? _____

Living His Way

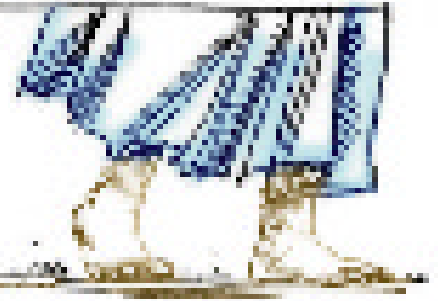
1. Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount describing God's view of a blessed life. Jesus knew that followers would be blessed as they put His words into practice. This list illuminates the heart of Jesus and as we follow Him, our hearts are transformed into His likeness. Slowly read this passage in Matthew 5:1-10 again thinking about the life of Christ. Simon Peter and the other disciples watched this *blessed* man live. Using this passage as a guide, describe Jesus. _____

2. Think about this description as you examine your own heart. What stands out to you as an area that needs some renovation? _____

3. Peter started out very rough around the edges. His heart needed to be reformed just as ours does. It is a slow process but it will happen as we trust Christ and love Him. God will change our hearts and lives just as radically as He changed Peter's. Do you really believe this? Paul reminds us in Philippians 1:6 that "...being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to *completion*." How does this reminder encourage you? _____

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4. End your time meditating on a passage that spoke to you personally in this lesson. Listen for the Father's voice speaking to you through His written word. What do you want to say to Him? _____

Summary Statement

In one sentence, write out what you feel is the main point of this lesson.

Memory verse challenge: Philippians 1:6