



Lesson 36 – The Foreshadowing of the Cross

Based on Matthew 16:12-28; Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:18-27

1) What Psalm did Jesus claim foretelling prophecy?

Psalm 40:7-8 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of _____, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

The work of Christ on earth was hastening to a close. Before Him, in vivid outline, lay the scenes whither His feet were tending. Even before He took humanity upon Him, He saw the whole length of the path He must travel in order to save that which was lost. Every pang that rent His heart, every insult that was heaped upon His head, every privation that He was called to endure, was open to His view before He laid aside His crown and royal robe, and stepped down from the throne, to clothe His divinity with humanity. The path from the manger to Calvary was all before His eyes. He knew the anguish that would come upon Him. He knew it all.

From the chosen companions of His ministry the scenes that lay before Him were as yet hidden; but the time was near when they must behold His agony. They must see Him whom they had loved and trusted, delivered into the hands of His enemies, and hung upon the cross of Calvary. Soon He must leave them to face the world without the comfort of His visible presence. He knew how bitter hate and unbelief would persecute them, and He desired to prepare them for their trials.

2) What question did Jesus pose in order to achieve this?

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he _____ his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

3) What was their answer?

Matthew 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, _____, or one of the prophets.

Sadly, the disciples were forced to acknowledge that Israel had failed to recognize their Messiah. Some indeed, when they saw His miracles, had declared Him to be the Son of David. The multitudes that had been fed at Bethsaida had desired to proclaim Him king of Israel. Many were ready to accept Him as a prophet; but they did not believe Him to be the Messiah.

4) How did Jesus press them personally?

Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say _____ that I am?

5) What was Peter's response?

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the _____, the Son of the living God.

From the first, Peter had believed Jesus to be the Messiah. Many others who had been convicted by the preaching of John the Baptist, and had accepted Christ, began to doubt as to John's mission when he was imprisoned and put to death; and they now doubted that Jesus was the Messiah, for whom they had looked so long. Many of the disciples who had ardently expected Jesus to take His place on David's throne left Him when they perceived that He had no such intention. But Peter and his companions turned not from their allegiance.



6) Was Jesus pleased with Peter's answer?

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my _____ which is in heaven.

Peter had expressed the faith of the twelve. Yet the disciples were still far from understanding Christ's mission. The opposition and misrepresentation of the priests and rulers, while it could not turn them away from Christ, still caused them great perplexity.

7) What blessing was poured out on the disciples that day?

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are _____; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

On this day, before they were brought face to face with the great trial of their faith, the Holy Spirit rested upon them in power. For a little time, their eyes were turned away from **"the things which are seen,"** to behold **"the things which are not seen."**

8) How easy are the things of God to understand?

Job 11:8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than _____; what canst thou know?

9) How did Paul describe it?

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath _____ for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the _____ searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

10) How did the Psalmist describe it?

Psalms 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his _____.

The truth which Peter had confessed is the foundation of the believer's faith. It is that which Christ Himself has declared to be eternal life. But the possession of this knowledge was no ground for self-glorification. Through no wisdom or goodness of his own had it been revealed to Peter. Never can humanity, of itself, attain to a knowledge of the divine.

11) What amazing thing did Jesus say to Peter?

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this _____ I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

12) How did Peter interpret what Jesus said later in his life?

1 Peter 2:3-5 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is _____. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively _____, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, _____ to God by Jesus Christ.

The word Peter signifies a stone, a rolling stone. Peter was not the rock upon which the church was founded. The gates of hell did prevail against him when he denied his Lord with cursing and swearing. The church was built upon One against whom the gates of hell could not prevail.



13) How did Paul describe the foundation of God's kingdom?

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other _____ can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

14) How will our work be tested?

1 Corinthians 3:12-13 Now if any man build upon this _____ gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's _____ of what sort it is.

15) Who was Jesus referring to when He said, "I will build My church"?

In the presence of God, and all the heavenly intelligences, in the presence of the unseen army of hell, Christ founded His church upon the living Rock. That Rock is Himself, His own body, for us broken and bruised. Against the church built upon this foundation, the gates of hell shall not prevail.

For six thousand years, faith has builded upon Christ. For six thousand years the floods and tempests of satanic wrath have beaten upon the Rock of our salvation; but it stands unmoved.

16) What other promise did Jesus make to Peter and the Disciples?

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the _____ of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt _____ on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

These words have power to open and to shut heaven. They declare the conditions upon which men are received or rejected. Thus, the work of those who preach God's word is a savor of life unto life or of death unto death. Theirs is a mission weighted with eternal results.

17) Who is the Head of the Church?

Matthew 23:8-10 But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are _____. And call no man your _____ upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called _____: for one is your Master, even Christ.

If Jesus had delegated any special authority to one of the disciples above the others, we should not find them so often contending as to who should be the greatest. They would have submitted to the wish of their Master and honored the one whom He had chosen.

18) What did Jesus tell His Disciples next?

Matthew 16:20 Then charged he his disciples that they should _____ no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

This charge was given because of the determined opposition of the scribes and Pharisees. More than this, the people, and even the disciples, had so false a conception of the Messiah that a public announcement of Him would give them no true idea of His character or His work. But day by day He was revealing Himself to them as the Saviour, and thus He desired to give them a true conception of Him as the Messiah.



19) What did Jesus do next?

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be _____ again the third day.

The time had come for the veil that hid the future to be withdrawn.

20) Was Peter OK with what Jesus was telling them?

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to _____ him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

21) How did Jesus respond to Peter's well-meaning words?

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee _____ me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Speechless with grief and amazement, the disciples listened. Christ had accepted Peter's acknowledgment of Him as the Son of God; and now His words pointing to His suffering and death seemed incomprehensible. Peter could not keep silent. He laid hold upon his Master, as if to draw Him back from His impending doom.

Peter loved his Lord; but Jesus did not commend him for thus manifesting the desire to shield Him from suffering. Peter's words were not such as would be a help and solace to Jesus in the great trial before Him. They were not in harmony with God's purpose of grace toward a lost world, nor with the lesson of self-sacrifice that Jesus had come to teach by His own example. Peter did not desire to see the cross in the work of Christ.

In the wilderness, Satan had offered Christ the dominion of the world on condition of forsaking the path of humiliation and sacrifice. Now he was presenting the same temptation to the disciple of Christ. He was seeking to fix Peter's gaze upon the earthly glory, that he might not behold the cross to which Jesus desired to turn his eyes. And through Peter, Satan was again pressing the temptation upon Jesus.

22) Did Peter learn his lesson?

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some _____ thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be _____, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

In the region of Caesarea Philippi, Christ was out of the reach of Herod and Caiaphas, the disciples reasoned. He had nothing to fear from the hatred of the Jews or from the power of the Romans. Why not work there, at a distance from the Pharisees? Why need He give Himself up to death? If He was to die, how was it that His kingdom was to be established so firmly that the gates of hell should not prevail against it? To the disciples this was indeed a mystery.

Matthew 16:24-28 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Can you see that God's plans are bigger than ours?

Do you want to see Jesus come into His Kingdom?

When is the time to put Our Father first in everything?