

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who was John the Baptist?
2. Why did John the Baptist doubt that Jesus was the Christ?
3. Why did Jesus give the two disciples an indirect answer?
4. How can we overcome doubt in our lives?
5. What was Jesus' witness concerning John?
6. Why did so many fail to believe John and Jesus?

SUMMARY:

John the Baptist had been imprisoned and in the trials involved had perhaps reached a state of discouragement, even questioning if Jesus was the Christ. The evidence Jesus established for John's messengers was a mighty evidence for them to take back to him. After their departure Jesus gave John a very high commendation. Jesus then pointed out the nature of those of the world who reject and find fault. No matter who would witness for Christ today, the critics will find some reason or excuse to reject the call just as the world did with John and Jesus. Are we ready to accept such criticism even though it is false?

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

December 2, 2007

Fourth Quarter

JESUS' TRIBUTE TO JOHN THE BAPTIST

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 11:1-19*

LESSON SETTING: The twelve disciples had been sent to preach.

TIME: Christ's early ministry.

- I. A DISTURBING QUESTION.** Matthew 11:1-3
 - A. Tribulation (vs. 2) John 16:33; Acts 14:22
 - B. Misgivings (vs. 3) John 11:39; Acts 12:14-15
- II. A POWERFUL ANSWER.** Matthew 11:4-6
 - A. Miracle Healing (vs. 5) Matthew 12:22; 15:31
 - B. Dead Raised (vs. 5) Luke 7:15; John 11:44
 - C. Gospel is Preached (vs. 5)
- III. A MIGHTY MESSENGER.** Matthew 11:7-15
 - A. The Forerunner (vs. 10) Malachi 3:1; Luke 1:17
 - B. A Mighty Witness (vs. 11) Mark 1:5; Luke 1:15; John 5:35
- IV. A FICKLE GENERATION.** Matthew 11:16-19
 - A. Worldliness (vs. 16-17) 1 Samuel 8:19; Luke 8:14
 - B. Unbelieving (vs. 18) Luke 8:12; 22:67
 - C. False Accusers (vs. 19) Luke 6:7; 1 Peter 3:16

GOLDEN TEXT: *AMONG THEM THAT ARE BORN OF WOMEN
THERE HATH NOT RISEN A GREATER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIST*

Matthew 11:11

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 12:1-13

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Samuel 12:1-25; 21:1-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: JESUS, LORD OF THE SABBATH

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus' life on this earth was spent in teaching the people concepts of worship that were new or different to them. They had, by the law and by their own traditions, established certain rules of conduct concerning keeping of the Sabbath. This was necessary to point out to the people that this day must be different from the six days of labor. The seventh day is still a different day, except that Jesus showed that we are to serve Him. This involves teaching others about Him, helping those who are in need of help, and other things whereby His name is glorified. He did not change it into a day just like other days, but ordained it into a day of doing good. He demonstrates that He is indeed "Lord of the Sabbath." It is still just as wrong to make it a day of labor except for the necessary things even as it always was. The problem of proper observance of the Lord's day is solved when we devote ourselves to serving God and His purposes.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath, elevates the Lord's Day from a day of legal restraint to a day for doing good for the glory of God and the betterment of man.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE SON OF MAN IS LORD ALSO OF THE SABBATH.*

Mark 2:28

It was hard for some people to recognize Jesus as Lord. It was even more difficult when He taught and did things different than the ceremonial law and their traditions. Thus it was when they observed Him leading His disciples into the grain fields to gather handfuls of grain for them to eat and when He performed acts of physical healing on the Sabbath. Their compassion was greater, He pointed out, for the sheep or oxen that would fall into a ditch than for their fellowman who was bound by Satan.

He not only testified that He was "Lord of the Sabbath" but gave evidence of it by performing these acts of healing. He didn't say we are to mow our lawns, or work in our gardens, paint our houses, etc., but He did teach us to do good and to serve Him. May we devote ourselves to Him and strive to do His will.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 3 - 9

M. Lord of the Passover. Matthew 26:17-30

T. *Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath. Matthew 12:1-13

W. Lord of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-8

T. Lord of the Atonement. Romans 5:1-11

F. Lord of Judgment. Romans 14:1-11

S. Lord of Death and Grave. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

S. Lord of the Church. Ephesians 5:23-32