The Way, the Truth and the Life

Lesson 10, 4th Quarter Sabbath School September 30-December 6, 2024.

Sabbath Afternoon November 30

Memory Text:

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. KJV — John 1:18

"Jesus came in poverty and humiliation, that He might be our example as well as our Redeemer. If He had appeared with kingly power, in royal robes and with a train of attendants, how could He have presented such cutting truths as in the Sermon on the Mount? Where would have been the hope of the lowly in life had Jesus come to dwell as a long among men? DA 138.1

"To the multitude, however, it seemed impossible that the One designated by John should be associated with the humble publicans. Thus many were disappointed, and rejected the Saviour. DA 138.2

"Christ with the priests and rabbis so much desired to hear, that Jesus would now restore the kingdom to Israel, had not been spoken. For such a king they had been waiting and watching; such a king they were ready to receive. But one who sought to establish in the hearts a kingdom of righteousness and peace, they would not accept." DA 138.3

"The thought of the kingdom of God was brought to men, Jesus was present, saying, 'I am he, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.' DA 142.2

"Here Christ virtually says, On the bank of the Jordan the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended like a dove upon Me. That scene was but a token that I am the Son of God. If you believe on Me as one who has your faith that is guaranteed. You shall see that the heavens are opened, and are never to be closed. I have opened them to you. The angels of God are ministering to Me, and they are ever to be your ministers. Angels are to be with you, ascending, bringing blessing and hope, courage, help, and life, to the children of men." DA 142.4

Sunday, December 1

I Have Given You an Example

Read John 13:1–20. What happened here, and why is this story so important? What lessons did Jesus seek to teach?

"The disciples made no move toward serving one another. Jesus waited for a time to see what they would do, hoping that some one would show the spirit of a servant. He was willing to perform the menial service, and then to teach the disciples a lesson of humility. But they were surprised interest the disciples looked on, and in silence waited to see what was to follow. Jesus laid aside His garments, and girded Himself with a towel. He washed the disciples' feet, and he wipes them with the towel wherewith He was girded." This action opened the eyes of the disciples. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in altogether a new light. DA 644.4

"Christ washed the feet of Judas. He washed the feet of his father spirit filled him with sorrow, but he entered into no controversy with them regarding their difficulty. Instead He gave them an example of humility and love. Judas was not his for them was not easily disturbed he spoken that he knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he came from God, and was going to God. He was filled with the consciousness of his divinity, of the high and noble his royal crown and kingly robes, and had taken the form of a servant. One of the last acts of his life on earth was to perform the office of a servant, and perform it with the spirit of a servant." DA 645.1

"Before the Passover Judas had met a second time with the priests and scribes, and had completed the arrangement to betray into their hands. He had not confided his purpose to the disciples as though innocent of any wrong, and interested in the work of preparing for the feast. The disciples were suffering the spirit of the purpose of Judas, and they could read his secret. Yet he did not expose him. Jesus hungered for his soul. He felt for him such a burden as he felt for Jerusalem when he wept over the city. He knew that if he could but yield aside his royal crown and kingly robes, and had taken the form of a servant. One of the last acts of his life on earth was to perform the office of a servant, and perform it with the spirit of a servant." DA 645.2

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"Jesus, in choosing his position at table, had hoped to place himself first, and Christ as a servant washed his feet. Jesus had hoped to place himself at the right hand of Christ, and Christ washed his feet. But John did not take this as a rebuke or slight, as the disciples watched Christ's action, they saw that Christ was not offended, and they felt that they had been unnecessarily hurt by Christ. Thus wash my feet?" Christ's condescension broke his heart. He was filled with shame to think that one of the disciples was not performing this service. "What I do," Christ said, "thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." Peter could not bear to see his Lord, whom he believed to be the Son of God, acting the part of a servant. His whole soul rose up against this humiliation. He did not realize that he this Christ came into the world, and that great emphasis he esteemed, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." DA 645.2

"Solemnly Christ said to Peter, 'If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with Me." The service which Peter refused was the type of a higher cleansing. Christ had come to wash the heart from the stain of sin, and nothing to allow Christ to wash his feet, Peter was refusing the higher cleansing included in the lower. He was really rejecting his Lord. It is not humiliating to the soul to allow others to wait for our purification. The truest humility is to receive with thankful heart any provision made in our behalf, and with earnestness do service for Christ." DA 646.1

Monday, December 2

I Will Certainly Come Again

Read John 14:1–3. In what context did Jesus say these words?

"Then addressing them by the endearing term, "Little children," He said, "Let a little while I am with you, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me. Whatever I have said to you." DA 660.2

"Christ would not repose when they heard this. Fear fell upon them. They pressed close about the Saviour. Their Master and Lord, their beloved Teacher and Friend, He was dearer to them than life. Their hearts had been bound to him by all that difficult, perplexing, sorrowfulness and disappointment. Now He was to leave them, a lonely, dependent company. Jesus saw the foreboding that filled their hearts. DA 662.2

"But the Saviour's words to them were full of hope. He knew that they were to be assailed by temptations, and that Satan would bring all his power against those who are dependent on Christ for strength. Therefore he pointed them away from the things which are seen," to the things which are not seen," 2 Corinthians 4:18. From earthly ease he turned their thoughts to their heavenly home. DA 662.4

"Let not your heart be troubled," He said, "ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. For your sake I came into the world: I am working in your behalf. When I go away, I shall still work earnestly for you. I came into the world to reveal Myself to you, that you might believe. I go to the Father to plead your cause with him in your behalf. The object of Christ's departure was the opposite of what the disciples feared. It did not mean a final separation. He was going to prepare a place for them, that they might be with Him in the place of His Father's abode. He was seeking mansions for them; they were to build character after the divine pattern." DA 663.1

"Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake. Their faith might safely rest on the evidence given in Christ's works, works that no man, of himself, ever had done, or ever could do. Christ's work testified to His divinity. Through him the Father had been revealed. DA 664.1

"If the disciples believed this vital connection between the Father and the Son, their faith would not fortake them when they saw Christ's suffering and death to save a perishing world. Christ was seeking to lead them from their low condition of faith to the experience they might receive if they truly believed that He was—God in human flesh. He desired them to see that their faith must lead up to God, and be anchored there. How earnestly and perseveringly our compassionate Saviour sought to prepare his disciples for the storm of temptation that was soon to beat upon them. He would have them find rest with Him in God." DA 664.2

Tuesday, December 3

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

Read John 14:5, 6. What query did Thomas make about where Jesus was going? How did Jesus respond?

"All that the disciples were prepared, Thomas, always troubled by doubts, said, "Lord, we know not whither Thou goest, and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him." DA 663.2

"There are not many ways to heaven. Each one may not choose his own way. Christ says, "I am the way . . . no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." Once the first gospel sermon was preached, Satan set to work to make men think that there are many ways to heaven. He has succeeded in this work. Thousands have gone down to the pit, and the life he was the way, and the way, and the life. He was the way, when Adam lived, when Abel presented to God the blood of the slain lamb, representing the blood of the Redeemer. There was the way when the prophets and patriarchs were saved. He is the way by which alone we can have access to God. DA 663.3

"If ye had known Me, Christ said, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen him. Jesus was the type of the disciples understanding." DA 663.4

Read Ps 147:1–11. How did Jesus clear up Philip's misunderstanding?

"Lord, show us the Father," exclaimed Philip, 'and it suffiseth us." DA 663.4

"Amazed at his dullness of comprehension, Christ asked with pained surprise, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father: in the works he does through Me? Do you not believe that I came to testify of the Father? Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me? Have I been so long Father? Christ had not ceased to be God when he became man. Though He had humbled himself to become a man, yet the Godhead was in him. Christ came to represent the Father to humanity, and this representation the disciples had been privileged to behold for over three years. DA 663.5

"Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake. Their faith might safely rest on the evidence given in Christ's works, works that no man, of himself, ever had done, or ever could do. Christ's work testified to His divinity. Through him the Father had been revealed. DA 664.1

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Wednesday, December 4

I Am the Truth

Read John 1:14, 17, 18; John 14:6; John 15:26. How does John tie the concept of truth directly to Jesus?

"Through all their weary wandering in the desert, the symbol of his presence was with them. So Christ set up His tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment. He pitched His tent by the side of the human tent, that the might behold the glory of God, and be sanctified by the divine character and life. "The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father), full of grace and truth." John 1:14, 1, margin. DA 23.2

"Jesus came to dwell with us, we know that God is acquainted with our trials, and sympathizes with our grieds. Every son and daughter of Adam may understand that our Creator is the friend of sinners. For in every sorrow of grief, every pressure of grief, every dead of love, every divine attraction presented in the Saviour's life on earth, we see God with us." DA 24.1

"By His humanity, Christ touched humanity; by His divinity, He laysi hold upon the throne of God. He can lay one hand upon the throne of the Infinite, the other upon the fallen race, that power to obey. It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses Saying, "I AM THAT I AM: thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Exodus 3:14. This was the pledge of Israel's deliverance. So when He came "in the likeness of sinful flesh," to redeem the fallen race, He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." Romans 8:3; John 14:6. Christ was the great I AM, the Deliverer of Israel. AM the living Bread," "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life." "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18. "I AM the Resurrection and the Life." Christ is the assurance of every promise. I AM be no shut, shall "God with us" is the survey of our deliverance from sin, the pledge of our victory over the grave. Christ is the I AM. DA 25.1

"But to their question, "Who art Thou?" Jesus replied, "Even that which I have also spoken unto you from the beginning." John 8:25. It is the truth which had been revealed in His words was revealed also in His character. He was the embodiment of the truths He taught. DA 465.3

"Among His hearers many were drawn to Him in faith, and to them He said, "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." DA 465.1

"Jesus was offended by the Pharisee. The nation's long subjection to a foreign yoke, they disregarded, and angrily exclaimed, "We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man how sayest Thou, Ye shall be made free?" Jesus looked upon these men, the slaves of malice, whose thoughts were bent upon revenge, and sadly answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." They were in the worst kind of bondage—ruled by the spirit of evil." DA 466.2

"The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and restrate the truth, He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He expose error, and expels it from the soul. It is the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself." DA 671.1

The Scriptures and the Truth

Read John 5:38–40. What is Jesus saying here about the Scriptures?

"In every page, whether history, or precept, or prophecy, the Old Testament Scriptures are irradiated with the glory of the Son of God, So far as it was of divine institution, the entire system of types was a prophetic representation of Christ. "To him bare witness all the prophetes witness." Acts 10:43. From the promise given to Adam, down through the patriarchal line and the long succession of prophets, the Spirit of God had spoken through the human agents possessed by Satan, and made the Bible to come, as it were, from the lips of Satan himself, in mysterious possession. In every sacrifice Christ's death was shown. In every ritual of incense His intercessions ascended. By every jubee trumpet His name was sounded. In the awful mystery of the holy of holies His glory dwelt. DA 211.5

"The Jews had the Scriptures in their possession, and supposed that in them were eternal life. Christ said, "Search the Scriptures; for they are they which testify of Me." Instead of dealing with Christ as the Saviour, they rejected him in person. He will not come to life, He said, That ye might have life." DA 212.3

Read Luke 24:27. Why is it important that Jesus first pointed to the Scriptures in order to reveal the significance of His ministry?

"Christ was the great teacher, the key-note of Bible history. Christ expounded in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Had He first made himself known to them, their hearts would have been satisfied, in the fullness of their joy they would have hungered for nothing more. But it was necessary for them to understand the witness borne to Him by the types and prophecies of the Old Testament. Upon these their faith must be established. Christ performed no miracle to convince them, but it was His first work to explain the Scriptures. They had looked upon His death as the destruction of all their hopes. Now he showed from the prophets that this was the very stringent evidence for their faith. DA 796.1

"Moses, and all the prophets, Jesus showed the importance of the Old Testament as a witness to His mission. Many professed Christians now discard the Old Testament, claiming that it is no longer of any use, but that it is not Christ's teaching. So highly did he value it that on time He said, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:29. DA 795.1

Friday, November 6

Further Thoughts

"Amazed at his dullness of comprehension, Christ asked with pained surprise, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father: in the works he does through Me? Do you not believe that I came to testify of the Father? Have I been so long Father? Christ had not ceased to be God when he became man. Though He had humbled himself to become a man, yet the Godhead was in him. Christ came to represent the Father to humanity, and this representation the disciples had been privileged to behold for over three years. DA 663.5

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