

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Five

IN THE GOSPELS: The Apostle Peter and the Apostle John

Burden to Impart:

The special experiences Peter and John had with the Lord caused them to become the two most useful Apostles among the twelve. Over the years they became strong men of God who could bear the Lord's burden and share in His work with Him. They became "pillars" in the church (Gal. 2:9).

Memory Verse: "Jesus takes with Him Peter and James and John, and brings them up into a high mountain by themselves alone. And He was transformed before them" (Mark 9:2).

Facts to Teach:

1. Of the twelve Apostles, three were especially close to the Lord, and were brought into some experiences that the others did not have. These were Peter, James, and John. These experiences caused their testimonies to be extra-ordinary. James' witness for the Lord was so prevailing that he was the first apostle to be sought out by the enemy and martyred (Acts 12:2). Peter and John both lived on for a longer time and were used by God to write some of the books of the New Testament.
2. On one occasion the Lord asked His disciples who they thought He really was. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" The Lord told Peter that he was blessed, for only God could have revealed that secret to him (Matt. 16:16-18).
3. Then the Lord told Peter that He would give him the keys to His kingdom (Matt. 16:16-19). The Lord entrusted a great responsibility to Peter. He later used these "keys" by preaching the gospel and opening the door of faith for thousands of people to believe in the Lord Jesus and enter His heavenly kingdom (Acts 2:37-41; 10:44-48). He truly became a great "fisher of men" as Jesus had foretold (Matt. 4:19).
4. On another occasion Jesus brought Peter, James, and John apart from the rest of the Apostles to a high mountain. There He revealed Himself to them in all of His glory (Matt. 17:1-9). No other person ever saw His glory like this while He was on earth, only these three. Then He charged them not to tell any one else of the vision until He arose from the dead. This was a special experience He shared only with them.
5. Once, when a young girl had died, the Lord Jesus only allowed Peter, James, and John to accompany Him when He performed the miracle of raising her from the dead (Mark 5:37).
6. Also, before the Lord Jesus went to the cross, He took Peter, James, and John aside with Him and spoke to them alone the deepest things on His heart concerning His sorrow (Matt. 26:36-38). It seems that they had a deeper fellowship with the Lord than the rest of the Apostles.

SUBJECT: GOD’S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT: Jesus is Calling You

SCRIPTURE: Matt 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17; Luke 1:76-80; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Matt. 14:14-21; John 6:5-14; Matt. 21:1-16

AIM: To show the children that God calls children to prepare them to be useful to Him.

MEMORY VERSES: 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:15

INTRODUCTION: Since the beginning of the school year, we have heard about many people in the New Testament who were called by the Lord. Can you name some of them? John the Baptist, the twelve disciples (including Peter, James, and John), Matthew, Judas, Mary the Magdalene, and Martha. The Lord called each one of them for His purpose and His kingdom. Have you noticed that all of these people were adults? If so, you may have gotten the idea that you have to wait a long time before the Lord calls you. It is true that when you are a little older the Lord will call you in a very special way for His purpose and His kingdom. But even before that special time, and as a preparation for that special time, the Lord Jesus is calling you right now. The Lord calls us when we are still children.

CONTENT: The following are examples from the Bible of the Lord’s special calling to children. The examples are to show us why children were called by Him and how He prepares children to be useful to Him in the future.

I. TO COME TO HIM

One day while the Lord Jesus was ministering, little children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray. But His disciples, who did not realize how special the children were to the Lord, rebuked those who brought the children to Him. The Lord became indignant. He told His disciples, “Allow the little children to come to Me. Do not forbid them.” He then laid His hands on the children and prayed for them. He even took some of the little ones in His arms. He fervently blessed them and laid His hands on them.

II. TO BECOME STRONG IN SPIRIT

We heard how John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Lord, preparing the way for Him. But we should also know that the Bible says that as a child he grew and became strong in spirit. This means not only did he grow physically, but he grew, or became strong, in the things of God while still a young boy.

III. TO KNOW THE WORD

Timothy was a young man who was very useful to the Lord and to the Apostle Paul. We are told (2 Tim. 3:16) that as a child he knew the Holy Scriptures, the Bible. This made him wise unto salvation.

IV. TO GIVE

One day there was a large crowd of five thousand men (plus women and children) who had been listening to the Lord Jesus. It was getting dark and it was time to go home, but the Lord didn’t want to send them away without giving them something to eat. He told the disciples to give them something to eat. There was a little boy there who had five barley loaves and two fish. The Lord Jesus took the loaves and the fish and gave thanks to the Father, and distributed to the reclining crowd, as much as they wanted! When they were finished, they gathered the leftovers and placed them in twelve baskets.

V. TO PRAISE HIM

One day, shortly before the Lord’s death, a great crowd had come to the Passover feast in Jerusalem. When they heard that Jesus was also coming into Jerusalem, they gave Him a warm welcome. Most of the crowd spread their own garments in the road, and others cut branches of

the palm trees and spread them on the road. The crowds went before Him and those who followed cried out, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”

The Lord Jesus thus entered into the city. He eventually went into the temple, and after cleansing it from the moneychangers and merchandisers, began to heal the blind and the lame. The chief priests and the scribes saw the wonders that He did and the children who were crying out, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” They were indignant because of their pride and jealousy. They said to the Lord, “Do you hear what these are saying?” The Lord Jesus said, “Yes. Have you never read out of the mouths of infants and sucklings You have perfected praise?”

APPLICATION :

1. **The Lord calls us, as children, to come to Him.** He likes us to come to Him so He can bless us, pray for us, and even hold us in His arms (be close to Him).
2. **The Lord calls children to become strong in spirit.** To become strong in spirit we must be with God and we must be for God. We need to pray, we need to spend time with Him, and we need to testify for Him.
3. **The Lord calls us as a child to know the Holy Scriptures, the Bible.** We need to read the Word; we need to give ourselves to memorize His Word.
4. **The Lord calls us, as children, to give.** It is interesting that among all the adults in that large crowd, it was a little boy who gave what he had to the Lord. He was little and he only gave a little, but the Lord was able to do much with the little he gave.
5. **The Lord calls children to praise Him.** The word “perfected” that the Lord used in Matthew 21:16 implies that something is missing, something needs to be completed, in this case, praise. God’s praise is not complete without the praises of children. The Lord’s Table is a special time to remember the Lord and praise Him, but if even every adult gave praise to the Lord at the Lord’s Table, something would be missing. Only the praise of children can perfect praise, can complete praise. In our children’s singing time, we need to complete God’s praise. The Lord desires to prepare you today so that you will be useful to Him in the future. You need to respond to the Lord’s calling today. Do not miss the opportunity!