

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 12

The World to Come

Scripture: John 14:1-4; Acts 1:11; II Corinthians 5:6-9; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21

Objects to have:

Pictures of beautiful houses, happy healthy people, children playing and laughing, outdoor scenery including lovely trees and sparkling rivers

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Why do we have Christmas? We have Christmas so that we will remember that Jesus came to earth from Heaven. He came for us! He came to grow up from being a baby in the manger in Bethlehem to being a man who would be punished for our sins. Jesus was on earth for several years, and then it was getting to be time! It was almost time for Him to die on the cross.

There were some men who loved Him and, of course, whom He loved. They did many things together. They ate together; they helped people together; they traveled together. It came to be the last time that they would eat together. They ate together in a very large room upstairs in a man's house.

While they ate, they had a good time together. Just being with Jesus was wonderful for His disciples.

Then Jesus said something that His disciples did not want to hear.

Telling the story:

Jesus said, "I must go away. I cannot stay with you. You cannot come with Me now, either. Someday you can be with Me, and wherever I am, there you will be also."

Peter said, "Oh no, Lord, please do not go away. I will follow You wherever You go. I won't let You out of my sight."

Jesus said, "Don't be worried. Don't be sad. Believe in Me. Trust Me. Whatever I promise you will come to pass. I have to go away now, but I'm going to do some work." Work? What kind of work would Jesus be doing where He was going? Jesus said, "I am going to get a place ready for you to live. I am going to build a mansion for you. I'm going to build a city for that mansion." What is a mansion? It is a great big, beautiful house.

Jesus was going away! He was going away to get places ready for His disciples to live. Why couldn't they go with Him? They wondered about this. They were sad to think that they would have to be away from Jesus for a while.

Later, when they went outside, some rough men took Jesus away. They crucified Him. He died. His body was placed in a grave—a tomb. He did not stay dead! He arose from the dead.

Then His disciples were with Him again. They were talking with Him on the top of a mountain. While they were talking and looking at Jesus, suddenly He started to go up off the ground. He went up, up, up into the air. He went as high as the clouds—just straight up. He was not in an airplane or a spaceship. He went up into a cloud, and they couldn't see Him any longer. Suddenly, two men were standing by them.

These men said, “Why do you stand here looking up into the sky? You’ve seen Jesus go up into the clouds; someday He will come again just as you have seen Him go.”

What a wonderful promise! Jesus had made the promise first. He promised that when He went away, He would come again. Now these two men made this same promise. These two men were actually angels. They were telling God’s Word.

That was many years ago. Jesus has not come back yet. We are still looking for Jesus to come back. He will come back. He promised He would. The angels gave that same promise. We do not know when He will come back. Only one Person knows that secret: God the Father knows when Jesus will come again.

Since Jesus went to Heaven, there have been a lot of babies born. These babies have grown up to be men and ladies. They have gotten old. They have died. Other babies have been born. They have grown up. They have gotten old. They have died. This has happened many times. Now we have been born. We were babies once. We have been growing since then. Now we are this big. We have bodies. Our bodies are the houses for a real “us.” When you look at me, you see the house for \_\_\_\_\_. (Insert your name.)

Teresa was born. She was a baby made by God just as everybody is made by God. Her mother and daddy saw her body. They could not see the real Teresa; the real Teresa lived in her body-house. Teresa grew and grew. She would laugh. She would eat. She learned to walk. She learned to talk. She came to Sunday school on our bus. She came to the Beginner Departments. She heard about Jesus. She went to the Primary I Department in Sunday school. She asked Jesus to be her Saviour. She went to school, also. She was in the first grade. We did not have our Hammond Baptist schools yet; this was a long time ago.

Teresa was leaving the school one day. She stopped at the corner. The crossing-guard told her it was all right to cross the street. She started across the street. A truck driver did not stop when he was supposed to stop. His truck hit Teresa. Teresa’s mommy and the policeman hurried Teresa to the hospital. Teresa was hurt very badly. She lay in the hospital bed. Pretty soon Teresa’s body got very still. Her heart stopped beating. Teresa’s body did not move any more. Teresa’s body had died. The real Teresa did not die, however. We know where the real Teresa is right now. When Teresa’s body died, no one could see what happened; Jesus sent an angel for the real Teresa. The real Teresa went to Heaven to be with Jesus. Teresa is in Heaven. Her body is in a grave.

Since Jesus went back to Heaven, a lot of people have been born and died. Their bodies are in graves. Some bodies are in the ocean. Some bodies are in the ground. Many of these people had asked Jesus to be their Saviour. Many of these people had not asked Jesus to be their Saviour. Those who were saved went to be with Jesus. Those who were not saved went to Hell, the bad place. We are alive; our bodies still move.

Someday Jesus is going to come again in the clouds. Jesus may come today! I know what will happen when Jesus comes. I read about it in the Bible. I will tell you what will happen.

When Jesus comes, He will come with a shout! The angel, Gabriel, will blow his trumpet. At that very instant, all the bodies which belonged to the people who are with Jesus will come out of the graves. All these bodies will be made brand new by Jesus at that very instant.

Those of us who are alive will have our turn to go up to be with Jesus. We’ll have our turn after those who had died get their bodies back. We will then rise to be with Jesus. We’ll go up faster than you can blink your eyes. While we go with Jesus, we’ll get our new bodies, too. Sometimes we get sick. When we get our new bodies, we won’t get sick anymore. We are sometimes sad, and we cry. I have been sad, and cried, too. When we go to be with Jesus, He’ll wipe away all our tears. We will not be sad anymore. We sometimes get dirty. When we go to be with Jesus, we will be in a bright, shiny, clean place. I’ll tell you what the city will be like where we’ll live with Jesus.

(Teachers, use your pictures while trying to describe Heaven.) The streets of the city will be made of gold—pure, clear gold. There will be a high wall all around the city. The bottom part of that wall will have pretty stones in it all around—pretty jewels of all different colors. There will be twelve gates in the wall. Each gate will be a huge pearl, each pearl showing a rainbow of colors. Through the city there will be a beautiful, clean sparkling river. There will be a wonderful kind of tree called the Tree of Life. There will always be fruit on those trees. We will enjoy eating the fruit from those trees. Now we have apple trees that have only apples on them, or we have pear trees from which we can get only pears. From the Tree of Life, we will be able to get many different kinds of fruit, all different kinds of fruit. Since Jesus is getting the houses ready for His people to live in, they will be the prettiest houses anybody can imagine. We cannot imagine how pretty they will be. They will be pretty and clean on the outside and pretty and clean on the inside.

Just imagine the prettiest place that you can imagine. Heaven will be better than that. And, we'll be with Jesus! Everybody will be happy and healthy. Everybody will laugh and have a good time. We will also do some work for Jesus, but it will not seem like work at all. It will seem like play to do what Jesus wants us to do.

There's only one way to get to Heaven. We get to Heaven by trusting Jesus as our Saviour. If some people do not trust Jesus, they will go to Hell. I know that I am going to Heaven. I have trusted Jesus as my Saviour. I will be so happy to see Jesus. I will be so glad to be where He will be.

Jesus said, "*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.*" That is what Jesus said. That verse is found in the Bible, in the book of John. Let us learn John 14:2 together and remember it. (Work on memorizing the verse.) Are you going to be with Jesus forever? You will be if you have trusted Jesus as your Saviour.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: John 14:2, "*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.*"