

=THE PARABLES=

Lesson 10

The Three Loaves

Objects to have:

A crown
A drawing that is simply sky and earth
An unsliced loaf of bread
A sign which reads SINS and a sheet of red construction paper
A sign which reads EVIL
A big stone that is in the shape of a loaf of bread
A picture of a fish and a picture of a snake
An egg and a picture of a scorpion
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Jesus was a marvelous Storyteller. I wonder if you remember some of the stories that Jesus told. The stories that Jesus told were more than just stories; they were parables. Who remembers what a parable is? (Yes, a story that teaches us something.)

Lead the children to remember something about each of the parables that we have taught thus far: How much God loves us—the prodigal son; who is our neighbor—the good Samaritan; things—the rich fool; admit you are a sinner—the Pharisee and the publican; believe the Gospel—the sower; are you truly saved—the tares; be ready for Jesus' coming—the ten virgins; live and work for Jesus—the talents.

When Jesus told His parables, there were usually great crowds of people around Him. Remember that the people covered a hillside, and Jesus stood at the bottom of the hill to teach them? Remember that Jesus sat in a boat and people stood on the shore to hear what He had to say? Remember that Jesus was in a house, teaching? Jesus one day was on the top of a little mountain that is called the Mount of Olives, and He told a parable. In today's story He might have been in a beautiful garden where there were many olives trees. He wanted to be alone, but He was being watched.

Telling the story:

Jesus knew who He was—the Son of God. Jesus knew that He was here on earth only for a few years. Jesus knew that He had a job to do here on earth and that one wonderful, glorious day He would return to Heaven. Can you imagine how homesick Jesus was for Heaven? Heaven is the most perfect, the most beautiful place there is, but Jesus had to leave Heaven and come to earth. Jesus, the Son of God, had to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all the people who have ever lived on the earth. While He was on earth, I am sure there were many times that He longed to be in Heaven. He wanted to be with God the Father.

But, He could still talk to God the Father, even though He was on earth and God the Father was in Heaven. So, Jesus wanted to be alone. He wanted to talk with God the Father. We call talking with God praying. Jesus was praying. Someone was watching Him while He prayed. Some men were watching Him. They were the men who said that they wanted to be with Jesus all the time. They wanted to follow Him, they wanted to learn from Him, and they wanted to serve Him. These men were called Jesus' disciples.

When Jesus finished praying, His disciples walked over to where He was. "Jesus, please teach us to pray. We want to talk with God the Father, also."

Maybe Jesus and His disciples all sat down. The disciples' eyes were all looking at Jesus. They were not thinking about anything else except to hear every word that Jesus had to say to them.

(Pick up the crown.) Jesus said, “When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.” Jesus was saying that when we pray, we are to remember that God’s kingdom is going to come to earth someday. Jesus will be the King of kings. We are to remember how wonderful God is: “Hallowed be thy name.” We are to want Jesus to come to be our King of kings: “Thy kingdom come.” Jesus said to ask God for that.

(Hold up the picture of the sky and the earth.) The disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray....” Jesus said, “When ye pray, say...Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.” Dear God, whatever You want to be done, let it be done.

(Hold up the word SINS and the red construction paper in your other hand.) Jesus said, “When ye pray, say...And forgive us our sins....” Jesus was saying to His disciples, and He is saying to us, tell God what sins you have committed. Ask Him to forgive you. If you have believed that Jesus died for you, your sins will be forgiven. (Put the sheet of red construction paper on top of the word SINS.)

(Hold up the word EVIL.) Jesus said, “When ye pray, say...And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.” Jesus is telling us to ask God to keep us from doing wrong and from wanting to do wrong.

Jesus’ disciples might have been thinking, “Will God really give us what we ask for? Does God really care for us? God is so wonderful, and God is so mighty, can He really care about each one of us? Will He really hear us and answer our prayers?”

Jesus always knew what people were thinking, and He always knows what we are thinking. Jesus answered their questions by telling a story. Listen. Here is another parable. This parable is called, “The Three Loaves.”

(Hold up your loaf of bread.) This is only one loaf. Our story is about three loaves and how a man did not have three loaves but needed them.

It was in the darkest of the night. It was at midnight, in fact. There was a knock at the door of a house. The daddy of the house went to the door. There at the door stood a friend of his. The friend said, “I am very sorry to come and bother you in the middle of the night like this, but I had to take a trip that I had not planned on having to take. I am tired. May I come into your house to rest awhile?”

The daddy said, “Of course. Come in. I know that you are tired. I’m sure that you are hungry. Sit down and rest. I will be right back with you.”

“Oh,” thought the daddy of the house. “We did not go to the grocery store today. We planned to go tomorrow.” The mother of the house heard noises, and she got up to see what was happening. She saw Daddy in the kitchen, looking in the cupboards. “What are you looking for?”

“Shhh, Mother. Our friend has had to take an unexpected trip and is resting in the living room. I wanted to give him something to eat because I know he is hungry, but I don’t see a thing here to give him.”

“Oh,” asked Mother, “what shall we do?”

“I shall just have to go to the house of a friend who lives nearby. Perhaps they in that house have some food they could loan us. After we have gone to the store tomorrow, we can take food back to them—we can pay them back.” So, the daddy took off his robe and pajamas and dressed quickly and went down the street to the house of his friend.

The house was dark, and it was quiet. Daddy hated so badly to knock on the door and wake up the people in the house, but he had to do it. He had to take some food back to his tired, hungry, traveling friend. Knock. Knock. Is anybody coming to the door? Knock. Knock.

A voice speaks through the open window, “Who’s there?”

“It’s me—your friend. A friend of mine has come unexpectedly to my house. He is hungry. I have no food to give him. Could you lend me three loaves of bread?”

The voice from inside the house said, “Go away. Don’t bother me. All of us are in bed. It’s midnight.”

“Please, friend. Lend me three loaves of bread. I’ll repay you. I need them to give to my friend who is hungry and tired from traveling.”

“Don’t bother me. My door is shut and locked. The whole family is in bed. I cannot come to the door and bring food for you.”

“Please, friend. Give me three loaves of bread. Tomorrow we will go to the store, and I will repay you.”

“Oh, all right. I guess you will not go away until I have given you what you are asking for.” That friend got up from bed, went to the kitchen and got three loaves of bread and went to the door. He gave it to the friend who came to him at midnight. The friend thanked him very much, and turned and hurried back to his house. He was able to give his tired, hungry, traveling friend something to eat as he rested.

Jesus said, “Because the friend asked and asked, the other friend finally gave it to him.” God the Father wants those who trust Him to ask Him for what they need. If at first they don’t get it, they are to keep on asking.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know how much God the Father loves those who trust Him. Jesus said, “Disciples, if your son would ask you for something to eat (pick up the stone), would you give him a stone instead?” (Lay down the bread and the stone and pick up the fish and the snake.) Jesus asked, “Or if your son asked you for some fish to eat, would you give him a snake?” (Pick up the egg and the scorpion.) “Or,” asked Jesus, “if your boy asked you for an egg to eat, would you give him a scorpion that could sting him? You love your son too much to do these bad things to him. Your Heavenly Father loves you. He loves you so much that He wants to give to you the things that you need. So, just ask Him. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

So, Jesus taught His disciples how to pray by telling the story of the three loaves. We have learned how to pray, too, from this story. Now that Jesus is back in Heaven, He hears us when we pray, and He tells God the Father what we say. Many times we do not know what to ask for, and then the Holy Spirit talks to us and tells us what to say when we pray. We are supposed to pray everyday. God is waiting for us to talk to Him. We are to praise Him, and we are to thank Him. We are to confess our sins to Him. We are to ask Him for what we need and what we want. We are to ask Him for help to live right and to do His will. Pray everyday and pray many times a day.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Luke 11:13, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”