

=THE BODY OF JESUS=

Lesson 7

The Voice of Jesus

INTRODUCTION: We have been discussing the body of Christ; that is, His hands, His feet, His shoulders, His arms, etc. The lesson for this week is His voice.

POINT OF CONTACT: Perhaps you could have a tape recorder operating as the pupils come into class. They would not know it was going. You could then begin the lesson by playing back their recorded voices as they were chatting together in the early moments of the class. There are many other ways that a tape recorder could be used to get the voices of the children. Then, as the voices are played back, a discussion could be had concerning the different types of voices.

- I. JESUS IS “THE VOICE OF GOD,” Genesis 3:8. Jesus was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, for He is God’s Voice. John 1:1 calls Him “the Word of God.”
- II. NO ONE EVER HAD A VOICE LIKE JESUS HAD, John 7:46. Notice the words, “Never man spake like this man.” The word “spake” here not only means His “words,” but the “way” He spoke. No doubt He spoke properly, distinctly, lovingly, etc.
- III. HE SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY, Matthew 7:29. He was no sissy or effeminate weakling. When He spoke, He spoke as no one ever spoke before. Yet He spoke with authority. The word “authority” here means all of the following: power, confidence, straightforwardness, courtesy, etc. (Teacher, teach the child that his voice should be one of humble authority, straightforwardness, and courtesy as he tries to emulate the Lord Jesus Christ.)
- IV. HIS VOICE WAS GRACIOUS, Luke 4:22. The word “gracious” here means more than that the words He chose were gracious ones, though this was certainly true. (It might be wise for each teacher to discuss for a while the words young people should use. The use of excessive slang, any curse words, etc. should be frowned upon. Guide them to choose proper words that adequately describe what one is trying to say and what one feels.) However, the word “gracious” here means that He spoke in a gracious manner. There are several things involved in the word “gracious.” He gave others time to speak. He listened well to them. He spoke kindly when necessary and sternly when necessary. The word implies somewhat of a justice, an appropriateness. His voice was a kind one, yet on occasion could be a stern one. However, it was not stern when kindness was needed. It was always proper.
- V. HE SANG WITH HIS VOICE, Matthew 26:30. Notice what was facing Him. This song was sung in the Upper Room before He went to the Garden of Gethsemane. In just a few hours He would be praying until great drops of blood would come from His brow. In just a few hours He would be tried, scourged, beaten with a cat-o’-nine-tails, and crucified. Yet, He sang! The joy of the Lord always places a song in one’s heart. Remember the midnight prayer meeting and singing time that Paul and Silas had while they were in prison. (Teacher: Talk about the importance of singing the right songs. Discourage the use of the modern “rock” beat.)
- VI. JESUS’ VOICE CAN, ON OCCASION, BE AN ANGRY ONE, Revelation 1:15. Notice the words, “...his voice as the sound of many waters.” This is a picture of Christ as He comes again. No longer does He have the gracious words of Luke 4:22, but He comes as the Judge and His voice is the roaring voice of many waters. There are times when our voices ought to thunder out against evil. There are times when our voices ought to say, “No, we cannot participate in this endeavor.” There are times our voices will have to speak out against what is wrong. Of course, our voices ought to be gracious, loving, and kind; but they also ought to be capable of being stern when necessary.
- VII. OUR LORD STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF “HOW” WE SPEAK. In Acts 14:1 it says they “...so spake, that a great multitude...believed.” It was not just that they spake, it was how they spake. Someone has written a book called *The Excited Voice*. It is important that one learns to put his thoughts into words that will properly transport his thoughts and be an adequate vehicle.

- VIII. WITH HIS VOICE HE SHALL CALL US FROM THE GRAVES, John 5:25.
- IX. WITH HIS VOICE HE SHALL PUT DOWN THE ANTICHRIST, II Thessalonians 2:8.
- X. HIS CHILDREN HEAR HIS VOICE, John 10:4. How does He speak today? Does He speak audibly? No, He speaks today through His Word. Those of us who are His children should listen to His Word and heed it. While He is interceding for us at the right hand of the Father, His voice is not audibly heard. Those of us who love and know Him are to obey Him by obeying His written Word until that day when we hear His voice saying, "Come forth," and we shall be like Him.