

Christology

Lesson 6

Study Notes

Studying the Life of Christ

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Text: Matthew 12:18-21.

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

The reed is an emblem of _____, as well as of fickleness or want of stability. A bruised, broken reed is an emblem of the _____ and _____. It means that he would not oppress the feeble and poor, as victorious warriors and conquerors did. It is also an expressive emblem of the soul broken and contrite on account of sin; weeping and mourning for transgression. He will not break it; that is, he will not be severe, unforgiving, and cruel. He will _____ it, _____ it, and give it strength.

The smoking flax refers to the _____ when the oil is exhausted - the dying, flickering flame and smoke that hang over it. It is an emblem, also, of feebleness and infirmity. He would not further _____ those who had a little strength; he would not put out _____ and _____ when it seemed to be almost extinct. He would not be like the Pharisees, proud and overbearing, and trampling down the poor. It is expressive, also, of the languishing graces of the people of God. He will not treat them harshly or unkindly, but will cherish the feeble flame, minister the "oil" of grace, and kindle it into a blaze.

How gentle, quiet and unobtrusive is our Master's behavior! He is so frugal of His resources, so careful that nothing be wasted, so eager to make the most of us. And it is out of such materials that He makes His ever-victorious _____.

Introduction: The uniqueness of Christ is demonstrated most clearly in the things that every other great human teacher has done, but that He did not do. The character of our Lord was wonderfully _____, with neither excess nor deficiency. It stands out faultlessly perfect, so symmetrical in all its proportions that its strength and greatness are not immediately obvious to the casual observer. It has been said that in Jesus' character no strong points were obvious because there were no _____ ones.

I. Consider These Things About His Moral Character.

1. No word He spoke needed to be _____ or _____.

He never spoke unadvisedly or _____ or misstatements ever crossed His lips. He who was the Truth spoke the whole truth, and no occasion arose for modification or retraction of His spoken word.

2. He never _____ for word or action. Christ performed no action, and spoke no words that required apology.

3. He confessed no _____. No admission of failure to live up to the highest divine standards fell from Jesus' lips. He presented a challenge to His enemies.

John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

4. He never asked for _____. Nowhere in Scripture is it indicated that He ever felt _____ or exhibited any fear of future penalty.

5. He never sought _____ from even the wisest men of His day. Even at the age of twelve men marveled at His knowledge. **Luke 2:47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.**

6. He does explain His _____. He gives no reason as to why He is asleep in the storm; while the disciples feared for their lives. He does not give a reason for the delay to come to Lazarus's aid; He was content to leave the passage of time and the unfolding of His Father's plan to vindicate His actions.

7. He never asked or permitted _____ for Himself. He invited His disciples to watch with Him, but not to pray for Him. Their prayer was to be for themselves lest they enter into _____.

II. The Impeccability of Jesus Christ.

By Him being impeccable we mean that He was without an _____ or _____. Sinlessness of Christ.

A. He _____ no sin.

2Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The phrase "knew no sin," is an expression of great beauty and dignity. It indicates his entire and perfect purity. He was altogether unacquainted with sin; he was a stranger to transgression; he was conscious of no sin; he committed none. He had a mind and heart perfectly free from pollution, and his whole life was perfectly pure and holy in the sight of God. (Albert Barnes)

B. He _____ no sin.

1Peter 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

He was in all respects _____. There was no deceit, hypocrisy, or insincerity. He was in all respects what he professed to be, and he imposed on no one by any false and unfounded claim. Because He was tempted, He will _____ those who are tempted.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

He is able to succour ... - This does not mean that he would not have had " _____ " to assist others if he had not gone through these sufferings, but that he is now qualified to sympathize with them from the fact that he has endured like trials.

C. He _____ no sin.

1John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

He is perfectly pure and spotless.

III. The Testimonies of Some to His Sinlessness.

A. The testimony of Pilate.

John 19:4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

Luke 23:4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.

B. Pilate's wife.

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Dreams were considered as indications of the _____, and among the Romans and Greeks, as well as the Jews, great reliance was placed on them. Her mind was probably agitated with the subject. She was satisfied of the _____ of Jesus; and, knowing that the Jews would make every effort to secure his condemnation, it was not unnatural that her mind should be excited during her sleep, perhaps with a frightful prospect of the _____ that would descend on the family of Pilate if Jesus was condemned. She therefore sent to him to secure, if possible, his release. (Albert Barnes)

C. Judas Iscariot.

Matthew 27:3-4 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

What a tribute that was to the absolute purity and beauty of the life which Judas had known for so long in the closest intimacy! If there had been a _____, he would have thought of it as justifying his deed; of betraying the Lord, but there was none.

D. The dying thief.

Luke 23:39-41 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

It is a happy day in our lives when we see ourselves for who we are and see Christ for who He is; our only hope at the end of life.

E. The Roman Centurion.

Luke 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

The testimonies of these recorded for us, were either sinners or _____ of our Lord.

IV. Christ Could Not Sin.

There is no question concerning the fact that Jesus did not sin while upon this earth. The question for some is could He have sinned.

W.E. Best writes:

The point of view that Christ could sin is designated by the idea of peccability, and the fact that He could not sin is expressed by the term impeccability. To suggest the capability or possibility of sinning would _____ Christ as Savior, for a peccable Christ would mean a peccable God. Holiness is far more than the absence of sin; it is positive _____. The advocates of peccability say, Christ could have sinned is to deny positive _____. To deny positive holiness, therefore, is to deny the holy character of God.

Holiness is positive virtue which has neither room for nor interest in sin. The Lord Jesus could not sin because the days of His flesh meant only addition of experience, not variation of character. Holy humanity was united to Deity in one indivisible person, the impeccable Christ. Jesus Christ cannot have more holiness because he is perfectly holy; He cannot have less holiness because He is unchangingly holy.

The purpose of Christ's temptations in the wilderness were not to see if Christ would sin, but to prove He would not.