

3. Jesus: His Words

In this lesson and the next, we will be studying *the Words* and *the Works of Jesus*, for these two aspects are really inseparable, as we shall see. But we will *not* be looking so much at the content of His teachings, which would take volumes, but rather the *nature* and the *impact* of His Words. *Jesus* came to **reveal God His Father** and reach out to a *rebellious and sinful World*; to warn us of *impending Judgment and Punishment*, and to announce the good news of His Father's invitation into the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, it was **the Father** Himself speaking through His Son, calling sinners to turn to Him from their sins in order to receive the free gift of forgiveness and newness of life in Jesus.

Deuteronomy 18:18

18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you
from among their brethren,
'and will put My words in His mouth,
'and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.'

John 12:44-50

44 Then Jesus cried out and said,
"He who believes in Me,
believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.
45 "And he who sees Me
sees Him who sent Me.
46 "I have come as a light into the world,
that whoever believes in Me
should not abide in darkness.
47 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe,
I do not judge him;
for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.
48 "He who rejects Me,
and does not receive My words,
has that which judges him—
the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority;
but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command,
what I should say and what I should speak.
50 "And I know that His command is everlasting life.
Therefore, whatever I speak,
just as the Father has told Me,
so I speak."

What is the primary message from Deuteronomy 18:18 and John 12:44-50?

In the last lesson, we looked at Deuteronomy 18:18 and learned that God would raise up a Prophet like Moses, which turned out to be His Son, Jesus. Let us look at it again to see how He would be a Prophet like Moses.

Deuteronomy 18:18 (Observations)

Circle what the Father will put in His Son's mouth.

Underline what the Son will speak to them.

John 12:44-50 (Observations)

V44 Underline who Jesus said a person believes in if they believe in Him.

V45 Underline who a person sees when they see Jesus.

V46 Underline what Jesus comes as. Circle where those who believe in Jesus will not abide,

V47 Circle what Jesus will not do to those who do not believe. Underline why.

V48 Underline what will judge those who reject Jesus.

Circle when they will be judged. V49 Underline how Jesus has not spoken.

Circle who gave Him command to speak.

Underline what the Father commanded Him to speak.

V50 Circle what is the Father's command.

Underline what therefore Jesus speaks.

Jesus' Words Are From God

The only story (in the Gospels) of Jesus' youth apart from when He was an infant, is the one about a pilgrimage his family made to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover Feast when He was yet twelve years old. You know the story. **Jesus** was left behind in the City, until **Mary** and **Joseph** finally found Him in the Temple.

Luke 2:46-47

46 "Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.
47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers."

The story is all the more amazing when you realize that the teachers in the Temple would have had years upon years of training and education in the 'Tanahk' or Old Testament.

How would you explain Jesus' incredible insights in the Scriptures?

Years later at the Feast of Tabernacles, **Jesus** would again amaze the Temple learned men.

John 7:14-16

14 Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught.
15 And the Jews marveled, saying, "How does this Man know letters, having never studied?"
16 Jesus answered them and said, "My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

So from where did **Jesus**, the son of a carpenter, gain such *knowledge* without the training given to the rabbis and scribes? He would have had to acquire it during his *marathon times of prayer and fellowship with His Father God*, which became a habit even as an adult. In **Luke 6:40**, Jesus explained that a student/disciple was limited by his/her teacher.

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

If God the Father was Jesus' teacher, what does that say about Him?

Luke 2:46-47 (Observations)

V46 **Circle** where they found Jesus.
Underline where He was sitting.
Underline what He was doing.
V47 **Circle** the reaction of those who heard him.
Underline what astonished them.

The Rest of the Story (vs 48-50)

When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, they were amazed, too, but in a different manner. They were amazed that Jesus wasn't as frantic as they were, but was calm, collected, and enjoying a deep theological discussion with the most brilliant teachers in Israel. In fact, Mary was perturbed (read her response to her Son in v48) and a bit upset that Jesus was so nonchalant about the situation, evidenced by His response to her (v49). But His response (vs 51 & 52) must have been a consolation to them both.

John 7:14-16 (Observations)

V14 **Underline** what Jesus did.
V15 **Circle** the word describing the Jews' reaction to Jesus.
Underline what they said.
V16 **Underline** Jesus' response.

Luke 6:12

"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God."

Jesus' Words Are Life

We have seen that Jesus was *not* an ordinary man, but the only begotten of God Himself for the purpose of manifesting His will to restore a sinful race to Himself. The Words Jesus spoke were not coming from worldly wisdom, but were from God in the highest Heaven. Observe Jesus' words below.

John 6:63

***"It is the Spirit who gives life;
the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you are spirit,
and they are life.***

What do you think Jesus meant when He said 'the Spirit ... gives life' while "the flesh profits nothing"?

How are the words Jesus speaks spirit and life to us?

John 7:37-38

***37 On the last day, that great day of the feast,
Jesus stood and cried out, saying,
"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
38 "He who believes in Me,
as the Scripture has said,
out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."***

What does Jesus mean when He says, "If anyone thirsts"?

How is believing in Jesus related to coming to Him and drinking?

What does 'rivers of living water' mean? _____

John 6:63 (Observations)

Circle what the Spirit gives.

Circle what the 'flesh' profits.

Underline what Jesus says are 'spirit'.

Circle what else they are.

The Health movement involves many who wish to live healthier and longer by exercising and eating the right foods. But in the end, there is nothing we can do that will prevent death. It is our spirit that lives on ... our spirit where life really abides, and our spirit that hungers and thirsts for "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and gentleness", yet how many of us truly seek to nourish it to achieve those ends? The Words of the Heavenly Father, spoken through His Son, fills our spirit with His fruit by which we experience His Eternal Life!

John 7:37-38 (Observations)

V37 ***Circle*** who may 'thirst'.

Underline what Jesus says they should do.

V38 ***Underline*** who Jesus is addressing.

Circle what Jesus says will flow 'out of his heart'.

Three chapters earlier, Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well in Sychar, and told her a similar thing. She came to the well to quench her physical thirst, but Jesus discerned she had a spiritual thirst for she had had five husbands and was now living with a man she was not even married to. More than being physically thirsty, she was spiritually thirsty for love and kindness, things that could be found through faith in Him. We will never quench the thirst that is in our hearts until we admit our emptiness and humbly come to Jesus who loves us supremely and cares for us deeply. Then our hearts will overflow with 'rivers of living water' that has its source in God's Love for us!

Jesus' Words Manifest the Father

You've heard the challenge many times I'm sure.

"You Can Talk the Talk, But Can You Walk the Walk!"

Jesus not only claimed to be the Son of God, but *One* with **God the Father** as well. He certainly talked the talk, but He also walked the walk! He was, and is, the **Son of God Almighty!** Just hours before He would go to the Cross, He found Himself having to encourage His Disciples and reminding them that *their faith in Him was not in vain!!*

John 14:7-11

- 7 **"If you had known Me,
you would have known My Father also;
and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."**
- 8 **Philip said to Him,
"Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."**
- 9 **Jesus said to him,
"Have I been with you so long,
and yet you have not known Me, Philip?
He who has seen Me has seen the Father;
so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**
- 10 **"Do you not believe that I am in the Father,
and the Father in Me?
The words that I speak to you
I do not speak on My own authority;
but the Father who dwells in Me does the works."**
- 11 **"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,
or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."**

What does Jesus mean in verses 7 and 9?

In what way(s) can we know and see God the Father in Jesus?

Why does Jesus emphasize His union with the Father so emphatically?

John 14:7-11 (Observations)

- V7 **Circle** whom we know if we know Christ.
Underline whom we know and have seen from now on.
- V8 **Circle** who Philip wanted to see.
- V9 **Circle** who Jesus said had been with Philip and whom he still had not come to know.
Circle who Jesus says Philip has seen if he saw Jesus.
Underline what Jesus finally asked Philip
- V10 **Underline** two things Jesus asked Philip if he believed.
Underline the first evidence Jesus points to to support His claims.
Circle who does the work.
- V11 **Underline** what Jesus asks Philip to believe about Him.
Underline on what other basis we can trust Jesus.

Union of God the Father and God the Son

When the Son of God left eternity and entered the space-time continuum where we live, He laid aside His Godhood and became fully human, with all its weaknesses and limitations. But within that humanity dwelt His Father in all His glory, shielded from all mankind by that humanity. If God had come down in all His glory and holiness, every sinner would have been instantly annihilated, which would not have been His will. Through Jesus, the Holy God is able to reach out to sinners and draw them to Himself. In the Old Testament, God would appear as a "theophany" (in visible form) even as Jesus is God incarnate in a physical form.