

SUBJECT : God Is A Life Giver Not A Life Taker

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture: Job 38:1,4,16-17; 42:1-2, 5; Mark
16: 1-14, 20

LESSON AIM:

That your students will come to understand the
limitation they have as human being when they
are confronted with life and death situations.

MEMORY VERSE:

Mark 16:6

Introduction

- The challenge we face as we prepare for this lesson is to tie together two diverse events, the resolution of Job's dilemma and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The common thread between them is the display of new life following periods of extreme suffering.
- Apologetics seeks to defend the truth of Christianity by finding answers to perplexing questions. Apologetics has its place, however, there are elements of faith that depend on trust.
- Parents often discover that their children ask questions that we cannot answer to their satisfaction. We may indeed know the answer. But the answer we give may not fully satisfy the child's questions. The reason is that children do not yet have the intellectual or spiritual maturity to grasp the answers. So we try to answer as honestly as we can hoping that the child will trust it when the answers seem incomprehensible.
- Satan obviously is not interested in helping people who are suffering to gain a divine perspective. He is delighted when we turn to human wisdom to answer life's perplexing questions, like, why do good people suffer bad things? Such was the case with Job and his comforters, and much time was spent with their lengthy discourses. Only after these were exhausted did the Lord speak His thoughts.
- The Disciples of Jesus had forgotten what Jesus had said about rising again after His crucifixion and burial. It took a woman like Mary Magdalene to remind them of the divine plan.

God Takes Job To School

- Job 38:1-4 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, [2] Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? [3] Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. [4] Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.
- Understanding how to pray is just as important as what we pray for. In our lesson today we discover Job had requested a hearing with God because he thought God was somehow unfair to him. Job 9:33, 13:3
- When God is questioned, He will always answer in His own perfect time and way. To criticize God is to display both arrogance and ignorance
- Many things we ask God for or accuse God of because of our lack of knowledge of the will of God for our life. Jer. 29:11, 1Thes. 5:18, John 14:27, Phil 4:6-7 “What did you do with the peace I gave you?”
- God is about to take Job to school. God shows up in a whirlwind and asked Job a series of simple questions about the universe and its operation. “Job, since you seem to know so much about God, let me ask you whether or not you could run the universe I have made.” This seems to be the line of questioning for the next 3 chapters. His first question was; where were you when I hung the world out on nothing and laid the foundations? Job 26:7

Job Is Still In School

- **Job 38:16-17 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? [17] Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?**
- The questioning by God about his creation is so far over Jobs head and he has yet to answer one questions. In the ancient world a close connection was made between the depths of the sea and earth. In the ancient world the springs of the sea and the place of the dead was not a subject of academic consideration. So God continues his questioning by asked Job had he seen the gateway to death and hell.
- By making this connection, God was indicating that His control extended to issues of life and death. Job did not really understand these matters, either.
- The phrase shadow of death reminds us , of course, of the psalmists comfort in the Lords protection even if he had to go near that dark realm. Ps 23;4 . Here God indicates that death is but a shadow and a shadow of a gun cannot shoot you, a shadow of a knife cannot cut you, neither can the shadow of death harm you. 1Corn. 15:51-56

Now I See

- Job 42:1-6 Then Job answered the Lord, and said, [2] I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. [3] Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. [4] Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. [5] I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. [6] Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.
- We now reach the climax of the book. Job admits his limitations and testifies to Gods absolute power. Job also confesses the ability of God to know our thoughts before we think them. We often forget that God knows us better than we know ourselves and yet chooses to love us. Ps. 139:1-14, 1Tim 2:5, 1John 2:1-2, Rom 8:26-27, Heb. 7:24-25
- For Job, God is no longer and object to be discussed, a fact to be known, a truth to be comprehended, a concept to be argued. But, sees God as God. Job repents or comes into agreement with Gods will for his life.
- Most of us have obtained much of our knowledge about God from others in verbal or written form, however, to know God for yourself is the goal. It is when we suffer and God shows up and shows out that he gives us the assurance of his love for us. Heb. 4:15 Rom 5:1-5,

Proof Of the Resurrection

• **Mark 16:1-3** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. [2] And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. [3] And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

• Several facts point to these three women as proof of the resurrection. They were actual witnesses of His death and burial. They knew He was dead, and they knew where He had been laid. They had followed along behind the procession to the tomb.; There was no question in their mind about His being dead and buried. Mark 15:40-41, 47

• They bought spices and came to anoint His body. Apparently they had bought the spices Saturday evening after 6 p.m. when the Sabbath ended. Note they arose “very early in the morning, the first day of the week [Sunday]” to go and embalm Him.

• Imagine, their loved One was dead, yet they would not break the Sabbath law even to take care of Him. Luke 23:56

• They were sensible, thinking women of great faith. Note what was on their mind: how they were going to remove the stone from the entrance of the tomb. John’s account has Mary returning the second time when the angel appeared. John.20:1-18

They Saw The Stone And The Angel

[4] And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. [5] And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. [6] And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

The second proof of the resurrection was the rolled away stone. The stone was not rolled back for the benefit of Jesus, but for the witnesses to the resurrection. When Jesus arose, He was in His resurrection body, the body of the spiritual dimension of being which has no physical bounds. However, the witnesses needed to enter the tomb and see the truth. The tomb was rolled back for their benefit.

The third proof of the resurrection was the young man clothed in a long white robe. He was an angel sent by God as proof of the resurrection. God sent him for four reasons. To roll the stone back for the witnesses and take care of the soldiers at the tomb. Mat 28:2-4

To reassure the women. They were already grieving over Jesus' death. If they found the tomb empty without any explanation, they would have been devastated even more. The angel was a ministering spirit of God, one who ministered by reassuring God's people. Matt. 18:10, Heb. 1:14

To validate and proclaim the resurrection and to give directions.

A Person Invitation

- [7] But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.
- The fifth proof of the resurrection was the compassionate and wise word to Peter. God knew that Peter was crushed, despite his repentance, and that it would be extremely difficult for him to face the other disciples. He had proclaimed his loyalty too loudly and failed too greatly, even to the point of denying his Lord. Mark 14:26-31, 66-72).
- Peter was devastated, more than most believers could ever imagine. This is evident from the fact that he needed both this personal word of encouragement from an angel and a personal visit from the resurrected Lord. Apparently the Lord had to visit him first, all alone, before He appeared to the rest of the disciples. Luke 24:34; 1Cor. 15:5
- The sixth proof of the resurrection was the fulfillment of the Lord's promise. Jesus had told the disciples that He would go into Galilee after He had arisen. Mark 14:28.
- Fulfilling His promise was proof that Jesus had arisen. Being told to meet Him in Galilee would do two things. It would give them hope that their relationship with the Lord could be restored. They would know that everything could be explained to them in Galilee.

Hard To Believe

[8] And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

- The seventh proof of the resurrection was the fright and silence of the women. Note the women were as anyone would be: trembling, amazed, silent, and afraid. As they ran to tell Peter and the disciples.
- Why were they silent and afraid, saying nothing to anyone? The angel had told them to tell only “His disciples and Peter.” They were to tell no one else. They feared others might think them *crazy*, so grieved that they were imagining things.
- They feared the Jewish and Roman authorities, that they might be accused of stealing the body. Matt. 27:64, Matt. 28:12-14
- Every emotion of the women and their very reaction (trembling, being amazed and afraid) are proof of the resurrection. They reacted in a normal way, just as any group would react, and their normal reaction is evidence of the resurrection.
- Note: despite the effect upon their emotions, their thought processes were still very active. They did exactly as the angel instructed. They reasoned and knew to keep silent and quiet about the matter.

The First Witness Was A Woman

[9] Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. [10] And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

The eighth proof of the resurrection was the appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene. John 20:11-18 The very fact that Jesus visited Mary first, before He visited anyone else, is evidence of the resurrection.

Jewish tradition did not allow women to be witnesses. Only a mans word was to be counted as true in matters where truth was sought. The fact that God saw to it that women were to be first to be told of the resurrection was a big boost to the status of women. It is just like Jesus to respond to her love for him. She had been forgiven and healed from so much.

She was at the cross through the whole ordeal and her name is one of the names always given, even above Jesus' own mother, Mary. Mark 15:40-41

She was present when Jesus was taken down from the cross and until the very last moment at His burial. Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55

She refused to leave the tomb after Peter and John verified that the body was missing. John 20:11

They Had No Faith In What They Heard

- [11] And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. [12] After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.
- The ninth proof of the resurrection was the immediate unbelief of the disciples. Again, the disciples are painted in a bad light, a picture that most likely would not be shown if the resurrection had not really happened. The disciples would be seen as men of great belief and heroic examples if the resurrection was being fabricated. The very fact that they are seen failing again and again, and that they are actually the ones to fail the most tragically and are to be blamed the most, is clear evidence of the resurrection.
- The tenth proof of the resurrection was the appearance of Jesus to two disciples. This probably refers to the appearance to the two on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:13-35
- Just who they were is not known. They were simply two disciples of the Lord who were to go to the apostles and prepare them even more for the Lord's appearance to them. Again, the very way in which the Lord appeared and went about preparing His disciples for confrontation with Him is evidence of His having truly risen. His perfect wisdom, tenderness, and care—which is so evident in the way everything is handled—are clear evidence.

Still No Faith In What They Heard

- [13] And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. [14] Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him

- The two witnesses went and told the residue that believed not. The eleventh proof of the resurrection was the continued unbelief of the disciples. Again, no fabricated story would paint its main characters in such a bad light, not time after time. In fact, the disciples were not heroes, but tragic failures throughout the whole gospel story. This is seldom remembered and mentioned by preachers and teachers, yet they are seen as tragic failures, unbelievably weak time and again.

- Why does Scripture paint them in such a bad light? Because what they said did happen. It is the truth. Jesus arose and appeared to Mary and the two disciples, and when they shared their experiences with the apostles, the apostles refused to believe. They were without excuse.

Matt. 16:21

- The weakness of the disciples and their continued unbelief are evidence that what happened was true. It is proof of the resurrection. The truth, exactly what happened is being told simply and clearly by honest and moral eye-witnesses.

Its Up To Us Now

• **Mark 16:19-20** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. [20] And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

• The confirmation of the Great Commission is seen in two acts. There is the Lord's ascension to the right hand of God, that is, the position of power. The ascension proves that seven things are absolutely certain.

• The ascension assures us that God is and that He is alive. Christ could be raised from the dead and received up into heaven *only* by the power of God. 1Cor. 6:14; 2 Cor. 4:14-16; Acts 2:24, 32;

• The ascension assures us that Christ is God's Son. Phil. 2:5-11

• The ascension assures us that heaven is real (Phil. 3:20-21).

• The ascension assures us that the gospel is true. The sin problem has been dealt with once and for all. In Christ there is no more sin no more death, no more condemnation or separation from God. The good news is man can be saved. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 2:24, Heb. 7:24-25

• The ascension assures us that the Great Commission is the call and mission of believers. If the gospel is to be preached to the ends of the earth, believers have to do it. Jesus wouldn't do it Act 9:1-6, God nor the angels would do it. Acts 10:1-6, **Its up to us**. 2Corn 5:17-19

• The ascension assures us that power is available to carry out the Great Commission. Matt. 28:18-20;