

Lesson # 17

Jesus-Anointed for Ministry



The Gospel Tool

17. Jesus Models and Fulfills Role *Conceived by and filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, Jesus began his widespread, public, earthly ministry of ushering in God's kingdom only after the Holy Spirit came upon Him for power at His baptism. Jesus embodied, proclaimed, and advanced the Kingdom of God on the earth by healing and delivering the bodies and souls of all who came to Him. Jesus showed the world God's intention to restore all of life and creation to once again live and flourish under His gracious rule.*

Definitions

Please read these definitions in preparation for this Bible study

Anoint:

To set apart for special purposes; to give everything necessary for fulfilling those purposes.

Kingdom:

A sphere of royal power, kingship, dominion, or rule. The right and authority to rule over an area.

Kenosis:

Self-emptying. Refers to the way in which Jesus set aside certain Divine attributes in order to live as fully human (ie. Jesus incarnate was no longer everywhere present, as God is.)

Bible Study

Begin by praying; ask God to open your mind and heart to understand and respond to His Word.

Biblical Background

In the Old Testament, as God worked to bring His promised redemption to the world, He regularly put His Spirit "upon" certain individuals. This meant that He gave them the power and abilities needed to advance His purposes. Examples include: gifting 70 elders to both prophecy and share Moses' burden of governing (Numbers 11), enabling Othniel to judge Israel and set them free from oppression (Judges 3), and empowering Gideon to defend God's people against overwhelming military attack (Judges 6). In these and many other cases, the Bible says, "the Spirit of the Lord came upon" a certain person and this resulted in that person saying or doing something to advance God's purposes in that moment of history.

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Two lessons ago, we learned that the promised Messiah would Himself be a Spirit-anointed Prophet, Priest, & King. Read Isaiah 61: 1-3, and describe what Jesus, the Messiah will be anointed to do:



Jesus Anointed with the Holy Spirit

Read Luke 3:21-23

Observation

According to Luke, what is happening to Jesus while John is baptizing Him?

Interpretation

At this point in Jesus' life, He has done nothing miraculous or powerful. Remembering that Jesus is fully human, consider and describe the possible impact of God the Father giving this affirmation before Jesus' public ministry begins.

Application

Honestly reflect: how much of your sense of identity comes from "doing" for God? If all your works and service are stripped away, will you still believe and receive God the Father's love and affirmation wholeheartedly?

Describe a time when you sensed the Holy Spirit coming upon you to anoint you with power for sharing in Jesus' ministry? If you cannot recall a time, have you asked Him for this empowering?

Biblical Background

God's choice of the form of a dove to represent His Holy Spirit is noteworthy. Doves are not easily tamed and will only come to rest upon people who are at peace.





Read Luke 4:14-21

Observation

Immediately after being clothed with power from the Holy Spirit, Jesus is led into the desert where He fasts and resists Satan's temptations. What does Luke describe happening when Jesus returns to Galilee?

Read Acts 10:37-38

Observation

As Peter describes Jesus "going around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil," what does he point to as the source of Jesus' abilities?

Interpretation

If Jesus is fully Divine, why do you suppose it was necessary for God to "anoint him with the Holy Spirit and power" for ministry? (*Hint: See the definition of Kenosis, from the Definitions section, and read Philippians 2: 6-7 below.*)

Application

Consider Isaiah 61: 1-3, Luke 4: 14-21, and Acts 10: 37-38 together; name the common thread. How are you impacted by what you observe in these passages?

Philippians 2:6-7*

"Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

*from the ESV

Jesus Brings the Kingdom with Power

In this next portion of our study, we are going to observe how Jesus is empowered by the Holy Spirit to powerfully advance the Kingdom of God in both word and deed. This motif of the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus with power is in contrast to Lesson 16's study of the inward, or infilling motif of the Holy Spirit shaping Jesus' character for godliness in all things.

Read Luke 4:22; 31-44

Observation

According to verses 22, 32, and 36, how do the people respond to Jesus' words?

According to verse 43, what reason does Jesus give for His coming and going?

Verses 33-34 portray Jesus' words bringing Him into direct conflict with the kingdom of darkness in the middle of a worship service. What do verses 35-37 say about the result of this clash?

Describe how you see power at work through Jesus in verses 39-41.

Interpretation

Does Jesus seem to care more about people's bodies or their souls? Explain.

Spend several minutes imagining and then describing Jesus' impact on the families who encountered Jesus in Capernaum. What have they received back? How have their lives been changed? What might they be feeling?

Carefully consider and describe the possible results of Jesus' ministry if He had spoken powerfully, yet had been unable to heal and deliver from evil. What might people have felt then?

What are the results of Jesus being powerful in both word and deed?

Application

In John 14: 12, Jesus makes an astounding, unqualified claim: *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. They will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father."*

Assess and record: to what degree do your words and your deeds bring the kinds of transformation and restoration that Jesus brought?

Assess and record: To what degree are you familiar with and growing in the empowering work of the Holy Spirit?

Restoration Begins With the Inbreaking of The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God is referenced 43 times in the Gospel of Luke alone. The central theme of Luke is the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God: God entering into and transforming every dimension of human life through Jesus Christ!

Page through the rest of the Gospel of Luke, paying attention to each of the Bible section headings/stories. Notice how the Kingdom of God is breaking in and God is beginning to restore shalom through Jesus.

As you skim, record and describe three examples of Jesus bringing restoration below.



1

2

3

Read John 14: 9-10.

What does everything you have seen of Jesus in this lesson communicate about the heart of God toward humanity? What is God like?

Spiritual Discipline: Fasting

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” *Matthew 6: 16-18.*



Background

Fasting, according to the Bible, means to voluntarily reduce or eliminate your intake of food for a specific time and purpose as a means of humbling oneself before God.

In the Bible, fasting often occurs when there is a need for a spiritual breakthrough due to the burdens of life. These burdens could be emotional, circumstantial, relational, ministry related, directional, or any other kind. We notice Jesus fasting in Luke 4, immediately after His baptism, at the very beginning of His earthly ministry. We see Daniel in the Old Testament fasting by limiting his diet to vegetables and water.

Exercise:

Unless you have a medical condition that makes fasting unsafe, consider a short fast limiting your intake to water or liquids only for a single meal or a single day, choosing to use that time for prayer asking to more fully share in the heart of God toward all humanity.

Depending on how you answered the earlier questions about whether your words and deeds bring kingdom transformation, you might also spend time specifically asking God for more of the empowering work of His Holy Spirit in your life.

Fasting for
“ Spiritual ”
Breakthrough

Wrapping It Up



Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one that had been foretold and eagerly awaited. It is interesting to notice the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' life. The Holy Spirit is united to and fills Jesus from birth, giving Him perfect, sinless character, as we learned in Lesson 16. In this lesson, we learned that Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit at His baptism, when the Holy Spirit came upon Him and filled Him with Kingdom empowerment for ministry.



Jesus' ministry is marked by signs of power. Jesus embodies, proclaims, and advances the Kingdom of God. His words are spoken with authority, and people regularly find his teaching amazing. His words are accompanied by deeds that are equally remarkable. He has authority over nature and over evil spirits. He has the power to heal broken bodies and all types of sickness. Crowds flock to Jesus and the good news of the gospel spreads from town to town and from friend to friend.



Restoration begins with the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God. As the rule and reign of God comes to an area through Jesus' ministry, bodies are made well, people are restored into community, the hungry are fed, and the mourning of suffering families is turned to joy as the lame walk and the dead are raised. The prophet Isaiah had spoken hundreds of years earlier, with a message of hope that a Messiah would come and have the Holy Spirit upon Him to preach good news, bind up broken hearts, and bring release for the captives. Jesus ushers in His Father's Kingdom, and the fulfillment of these hopes begin to take place. Praise be to God!

Lesson # 18

Like Father-Like Son

The Gospel Tool **18. Effects of Jesus' Relationship & Role** *In Jesus, we see the full image and likeness of God! Rich in mercy, compassion, and forgiveness, yet unwavering in truth, justice, and righteousness, Jesus clarifies that all of God's laws and all of God's prophets point to this: loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbor as ourselves.*

Definitions

Please read these definitions in preparation for this Bible study

- Mercy:**
Lenient treatment, by which one does not receive what is justly deserved.
- Compassion:**
Sympathetic awareness of suffering, coupled with a desire to alleviate it.
- Forgiveness:**
The removal of one's debt.
- Truth:**
That which is real in actuality or fact.
- Righteousness:**
Acting in accordance with God's right and holy ways.
- Justice:**
God's righteous judgments, which always work to restore shalom.

Bible Study

Begin by praying; ask God to open your mind and heart to understand and respond to His Word.

Jesus: The Full Image & Likeness of Father God

Observation

What do each of the following passages teach about the relationship between Jesus and God the Father? About how Jesus represents God?

John 14:7-10	Colossians 1:15, 19	Hebrews 1:3

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Every passage in each of the four gospels should be read through the lens of how God is revealing Himself through Jesus. Read John 11: 1-37, and then focusing on verses 32-37, answer: what is Jesus revealing to us about God? What is God the Father expressing through Jesus?

Interpretation

If you were a news reporter writing an article about Jesus' representation of God the Father, what would the title of your article be?



Application

Do you find it easier to relate to God the Father or God the Son? If one over the other, why do you think that is?

How are you impacted by what you just learned about the connection between the Father and the Son?

Six Characteristics of God & His Kingdom

Although Jesus models and demonstrates many characteristics of God and His Kingdom, we are going to focus on six that are among the most central: mercy, compassion, forgiveness, truth, righteousness, and justice. Let's explore a story together where each is on full display.

As background, know that the Romans who occupied Israel at the time of this story would not allow the Jews to execute someone.

Read John 8: 1-11

Observation

What are the teachers of the law and Pharisees attempting to do? How?

Spend time imagining and then describe some of the many things that the woman hauled in front of Jesus, and a crowd, might have been feeling and thinking.

Jesus' reply to the men who are questioning Him in verse 7 is profound. What does it highlight?

As you consider Jesus' response to the religious leaders, coupled with His short interaction with this woman, how do you see God's mercy, compassion, forgiveness, truth, righteousness, and justice (see definitions from the beginning of the lesson) at work?

Mercy:

Compassion:

Forgiveness:

Truth:

Righteousness:

Justice:

Wonder and Marvel

In Jesus we see the fullness of God's mercy and justice on display! The kindness and forgiveness of the Lord makes a way for human repentance and restoration. God always works to restore shalom. God brings restoration without lowering His demands for truth, justice, and righteousness. God never stops being merciful, compassionate, and forgiving. All of these attributes come together in Jesus Christ.

Application

Recall what you imagined of the woman's experience in front of the crowd. How similar is it to what you have felt and experienced as you have sinned or as others have sinned against you? Have you experienced the fullness of Jesus' truth and mercy?

Consider your own response to other people's sins. Do your words and actions show the same balance as Jesus? If not, do you tend to emphasize sharing God's truth, righteousness, and justice, or do you tend to emphasize showing God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness? Why do you think this might be?

Write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's revelation of Himself in Jesus, and ask God to grow you into the fullness of representing all of His characteristics.



Mark your calendar for 6 months from now and look to see how God is answering this prayer.

Love is the Goal of the Law & Prophets



Background

Remember, God had given His covenant people laws in order that they might worship and live as those who reflect His glory and goodness to the nations around them. However, by the time of Jesus' arrival, religious teachers had distorted and added to these laws in a way that greatly burdened people. Jesus restores the heart of God's laws.

Read Matthew 22:34-40

Observation

In your own words, what does Jesus name as the greatest of all God's commands? The second greatest?

Interpretation

What does "Loving your neighbor as yourself require?"

What does it mean to love one's self? What does this require? (*Hint: Consider Lesson 3, and God's original design*)

What does it mean for all of the God's laws and all the writings of the Biblical prophets to "hang upon" these two commandments?

Application

From your knowledge of the Bible, or from your memory of perusing the sub-headings in Luke's gospel last lesson, describe how you see these two commands: love for God and love for others, at work in Jesus' life?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you review the last week or two in your mind's eye, showing you: have I demonstrated love for God above all else? Have I demonstrated love for others as I love myself?

Record what comes to mind in this space.

Thank the Holy Spirit for His transformative work; ask Him to continue growing love for God and others within you as a response to His grace.

Spiritual Discipline: Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a Latin term meaning “divine reading.” It is a method of *s l o w l y* and prayerfully reading scripture to encounter the Living Lord.



Exercise:

Please follow the steps provided, using *Luke 7: 36-50*.

*The Steps of Lectio Divina**

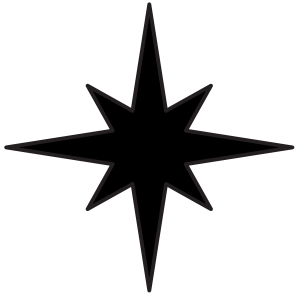
Quiet yourself in the presence of the Lord and offer a prayer to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance: “Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart and mind to listen to your Word.”

1. Lectio: Read the text slowly and prayerfully, constantly listening for a specific word that God has prepared for you. You may want to re-read the same text multiple times to help quiet yourself interiorly and focus on God’s voice. Listen and receive the Word that God speaks to you.
2. Meditatio: When a word or phrase strikes you, stop and rest with it. Repeat the word or phrase to yourself. Allow it to speak to you in a personal way by pondering the Word in your heart and reflecting on what it means.
3. Oratio: Prayer is your response to God’s Word. It begins a dialogue with God that comes from your heart. Formulate a prayer as a response to God. What do you want to say to the Lord in response to the Word spoken to you? Enter into this loving conversation with God.
4. Contemplatio: Rest in God’s presence and receive His transforming embrace. Sit still with God. Be content and at peace with a wordless, quiet rest in God, which brings joy to the heart.

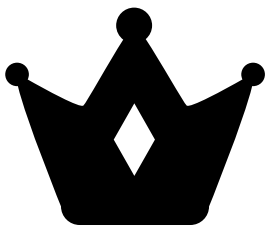
*(conceptionabbey.org)

After you have completed this activity, use the space provided below to write a few sentences describing your time with the Lord.

Wrapping It Up



We gaze at a newborn and wonder, “who do they look like?” We laugh with joy when we see that same family dimple in the chin of our niece or nephew. When we gaze at Jesus, His life and ministry, we are seeing an exact reflection of our Heavenly Father. God’s heart and God’s power are on full display through His Son, Jesus Christ.



We can find six characteristics of God and His Kingdom that are repeated throughout scripture. In looking at the story of a woman caught in sin, and how Jesus interacts with her, we see an exact representation of how Father God looks at each of us, caught in sin, and in need of a Savior. He engages us with mercy, compassion, forgiveness, truth, justice, and righteousness. His mercy and justice meet and are both fulfilled on the cross.



Our response to His great love is to repent, receive His love, and in turn, show love. From the writings of the Ten Commandments, we notice that God calls for love: love God and love our neighbors. The prophetic messages of the Old Testament were calls for God’s people to return to the God who chose them and made a covenant of love with them.

Love was the goal of Jesus’ life, and He completely and perfectly fulfilled the law and every call of the Father for humanity to image His love. It is our privilege and goal to grow up in the likeness and love of Christ Jesus.