

Messiah

Study Guide

For the book *Messiah*, a contemporary adaptation
of the classic work on Jesus' life, *The Desire of Ages*.

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Note: Numbers in parentheses at the end of each question refer to page numbers in *Messiah*.



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Chapter 1

God Becomes One of Us

1. What is the source of Jesus' glory? What is the law of life for earth and heaven? (11)

2. How does nature reflect God's law of love? (12)

3. What is the Father's greatest joy—His greatest glory? How does Jesus complete the circle of life and love? (12)

4. What was the only way to lead humans back to God? (13)

5. What principle is the operation of the universe founded on? (13)

6. How would Jesus show that Satan was wrong for blaming God for sin and suffering? (14)

7. What more did Jesus do with His life and death than just restore the damage done by sin? (15)

8. Why will sin and rebellion never again rise up in the universe? (16)

Reflection What does it mean "God's glory is to give"?

Chapter 2

The Chosen People

1. What had God wanted the nation of Israel to be? How had Abraham and Daniel done this? (17)

2. Why did Israel ignore God's laws and follow the lifestyle of the nations around them? (17, 18)

3. When the Israelites did return to their land, they obeyed God's law. But they were still wrong. Why? (18)

4. How did Satan discourage the people, lower their understanding of God, and make their religion a hated thing? (19)

Reflection The Israelites interpreted prophecy to fit their own selfish plans. How might we do the same today?

Chapter 3

At Exactly the Right Time

1. What conditions in the world made it ripe and ready for the promised Savior? (21, 22)

2. How had God been speaking to the world? (22)

3. How did the Jewish religion become like heathen religions? (24)

4. What was Satan's plan to win the loyalty of heavenly beings? (25)

Reflection How were the Jews distorting God's image to the world? How do Christians today distort God's image?

Chapter 4

A Savior Is Born

1. What did Jesus want to use to appeal to people? Why did He want them to accept Him? (26)

2. What was it that the angels couldn't believe at this time? (27)

3. Why did the angels appear to the shepherds instead of other people? (28)

4. What does it mean that "heaven and earth are no farther apart today than they were on that night"? (29)

Reflection Jesus came into this world anonymously. How would it have been different if everyone had known who He was?

Chapter 5

The Dedication

1. Why were the firstborn sons of Hebrew families always dedicated to God? (31, 32)

2. How did Simeon recognize baby Jesus as the Messiah? (32)

3. How are people's eyes as closed today as they were in the temple that day when Jesus was dedicated? (33)

4. What did the gift of Jesus show us about the true heart of God? (34)

5. What is the real purpose of Satan's rebellion? (34)

Reflection What events on earth today might be the center of attention in heaven?

Chapter 6

We Have Seen His Star

1. What did the wise men study to learn about the Creator and the coming Messiah? (36)

2. What did Herod suspect when he heard about the wise men? (38)

3. Why would the priests and teachers not believe either the stories of the shepherds or the wise men? (39)

4. What did the gifts of the wise men pay for? (41)

5. Why couldn't God protect the Jewish people from the Bethlehem massacre? (41)

6. What made Nazareth a safer place for Jesus than Judea? (42)

Reflection The Jews helped create the hatred that led to the Bethlehem massacre. Could Christians be responsible for creating hatred toward themselves and God?

Chapter 7

As a Child

1. What was the teaching of religion like in the days of Jesus? (43)

2. From His earliest days, what was Jesus' one purpose? (44)

3. What makes Jesus an example to people of all ages? (45)

4. What kind of children become valuable members of society? (46)

5. What kind of life is favorable to physical, mental, and spiritual strength? How is that true today? (47)

Reflection What kind of persons would we be if we truly “lived to bless others”?

Chapter 8

The Passover Visit

1. Which parts of the Passover feast were symbols of the Messiah? (49)

2. Why did Jesus' parents want Him to meet the great teachers at the temple? (50)

3. What would have happened if the teachers had accepted the truths Jesus suggested that day? (51)

4. Why didn't Mary and Joseph miss Jesus sooner? (51)

5. Now that Jesus realized who He was, what did He do? (52)

Reflection One day of neglect cost Mary and Joseph three days of anxiousness. How can the same thing happen to us?

Days of Conflict

1. What was Jesus' answer when people pushed Him to accept the traditions of the rabbis? (56)

2. What did Jesus do to show His holiness instead of hiding away? (56)

3. What great contradictions did Jesus' life contain? (57)

4. What was Jesus' answer when His friends asked, "Why do you want to be so different from us?" (58, 59)

5. What did Jesus' life show about every moment of ours? (60)

Reflection What do you think it means that Jesus "seemed to live in a different place, a place where God was with Him all the time"?

Chapter 10

The Voice in the Wilderness

1. What lesson did the birth of Zechariah's son have for us? (62)

2. What will play the largest role in determining success or failure in the battle of life? (64)

3. How did nature speak to John about God and about His people? (65)

4. What lesson did John teach by baptizing people in the river? (67)

5. What lesson did John teach the Jewish people about repentance using the fruit tree as an example? (68)

Reflection What do you think John meant when he said, "God can make children of Abraham out of rocks"?

Chapter 11

The Baptism of Jesus

1. Why was Jesus baptized, since He didn't need to give up any sin or repent? (70)

2. Why did God the Father speak from heaven at Jesus' baptism? (71)

3. God's words and the light that shone down from heaven are promises to us of what? (72)

Reflection Have you heard the voice of God in your heart saying, "You are My child, whom I love, and I am very pleased with you"? How would your life change if you really believed that?

Chapter 12

Temptation in the Desert

1. Satan claimed to own humanity and this planet. How did Jesus contest that claim? (73)

2. How did Satan try to make Jesus doubt His Father? What did he pretend to be? (75,76)

3. What one thing could Jesus not do? (76)

4. How had Satan succeeded in tempting the strongest, most faithful humans? (76)

5. How can we face Satan when he tries to shake our confidence and tempts us to distrust God? (76)

6. How was Jesus able to successfully face the temptation of appetite and desires? (78)

Reflection What can we do so that sin is no longer stronger than we are? How can we make this happen daily?

Chapter 13

Jesus Gets the Victory

1. If Satan cannot force anyone to do evil, how does he get power over them and control them? (80)

2. What is the counterfeit of faith? How does Satan use it to trap us? (80, 81)

3. What might have attracted Jesus to Satan's offer of the world? (81)

4. What do people lose if they agree to Satan's offer of power, fame, and fortune? (82)

5. Humans can't stand up to Satan. But how can they make him run in fear? (83)

Reflection If Jesus faced temptation just as we do, why did He succeed where we so often fail?

Chapter 14

“We Have Found the Messiah”

1. Why were religious leaders worried about John the Baptist’s preaching? (84)

2. How was John’s mission similar to those who would smooth a road for a king’s chariot? (86)

3. People didn’t see anything special about Jesus. Why did Jesus come as a poor and humble person? (88)

4. What was the first thing Andrew thought to do after he met Jesus? (89)

5. What did Nathaniel come to Jesus with? How can we be like Nathaniel today? (90)

6. What is an argument people can’t resist? (91)

Reflection In Jesus’ life the work of angels would be seen more clearly than ever before. How does this help you see what angels are really doing today?

Miracle at the Marriage Feast

1. Why was Jesus invited to this particular wedding? (93)

2. Why was this time so difficult for Mary? (94)

3. Since His time had not yet come, why did Jesus perform this miracle? (95)

4. How was this miracle a symbol of baptism and Jesus' death? (96)

5. Attending the wedding feast was Jesus' first step toward what goal? How do we work toward that same goal? (97)

Reflection What kind of people would we be like if we lived like Jesus as described in the last paragraph on page 97?

Chapter 16

Corruption in the Temple

1. Why were the animal sellers at the temple able to take advantage of the people with high prices? (100)

2. The priests should have been protecting the people and guarding the sanctity of the temple. Why weren't they? (100)

3. What does it mean that by cleansing the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah? (102)

4. Why did the priests and rulers run from Jesus' voice? (103)

5. Why didn't the poor and needy people run? (103)

6. Why couldn't Jesus explain the meaning of His words "Destroy this temple and in three days I will build it again"? (104, 105)

Reflection If Jesus cleansed our hearts like He cleansed the temple, what would change in our lives?

Chapter 17

Nicodemus at Night

1. Why wouldn't Nicodemus approach Jesus openly during daylight? (107)

2. How is the wind like the work of the Holy Spirit? How are the effects of the Holy Spirit felt? (109)

3. Was the snake in the desert magic? Why were people who looked at it healed? (110)

4. If faith doesn't save us, what is faith? (111)

5. How are we saved? (111)

Reflection When is it true that we don't need to know more truth—that we don't need to study and discuss the Bible's teachings more?

Chapter 18

John's Example

1. How did John respond to Satan's temptation of power and glory? (113)

2. How was John like a groom's best man? (114)

3. What did Jesus do to avoid creating misunderstandings or problems between Himself and John? (115)

Reflection How does a situation such as the one John faced arise today? What can we do to prevent it?

Chapter 19

The Woman at the Well

1. What did the woman need before she was ready for the gift Jesus offered? (118)

2. Why did the Jews and Samaritans hate each other? (119)

3. What does true worship mean? (119)

4. What kind of joy did Jesus feel when He helped the woman's search for truth? (121)

5. What did Jesus do to begin to break down the barriers between Jews and Gentiles? How did the disciples respond at the time? How did they respond later after Jesus returned to heaven? (122)

Reflection What can we learn from Jesus' willingness to speak to the Samaritan woman?

Chapter 20

The Jewish Officer's Son

1. Why wouldn't the people of Nazareth believe that Jesus was the Messiah? (124)

2. What more did Jesus want than just to heal the child? (125)

3. Why did the officer not hurry home after speaking to Jesus? (126)

4. What can we learn from the officer from Capernaum? (127)

Reflection If we have a true friendship with Jesus, how will that change the way we pray?

Healing on the Sabbath

1. Why did Jesus not heal every sick person who was waiting by the pool of Bethesda? (128, 129)

2. Why was the sick man healed? (129)

3. Why did the Jewish priests and leaders work so hard to discredit Jesus and make people doubt Him? (131)

4. Why did Jesus say that helping the sick was in harmony with keeping the Sabbath? (132)

5. Why is Jesus qualified to judge humans? (133)

6. How can we be sure to find our part in God's plan? (134)

Reflection What was wrong with how the Jews kept Sabbath? How can we make sure we don't make the same mistake?

Chapter 22

The Death of John the Baptist

1. What caused John's doubt and depression while he was in prison? (136, 137)

2. How did Jesus answer John's disciples' question? (137, 138)

3. Why was John considered a great person in God's eyes? (138, 139)

4. How did Herodias arrange for John's death? (139)

Reflection :“God never allows things to happen to His children that they would not choose for themselves if they knew the end from the beginning and could understand their part in His plans.” Would this thought give you comfort in difficult times? Why or why not?

Chapter 23

The Kingdom of God

1. What signs of the Messiah were first seen in Judea? (141)

2. How were the people of Galilee different? (142)

3. Why could Jesus say, “The time has come”? (142, 143)

Reflection How can we be sure that we aren't making the same mistakes the Jews made and be unprepared to meet Jesus?

Chapter 24

“Isn’t This the Carpenter’s Son?”

1. How did Jesus describe the Messiah they were waiting for? (146)

2. Why couldn’t Jesus perform many miracles in His hometown of Nazareth? (148)

3. Why did the Jews reject Jesus? (148)

Reflection How were the stories of Elijah and Elisha similar to the situation Jesus faced in Nazareth?

Chapter 25

The Call by the Sea

1. Why did Jesus end up teaching from Peter's boat? (149)

2. Peter was tired after fishing all night. Why was he discouraged as well? (150)

3. When was Peter really ready to work for Jesus? (151)

4. Why did Jesus use simple fishermen instead of educated men to be disciples? (152)

Reflection Have you ever felt a call from God? What evidence would show that someone is following a call from God?

Chapter 26

Days at Capernaum

1. What made Capernaum a great place for Jesus to reach out to the world? (154)

2. What does it mean that Jesus taught the Scripture with authority? (155)

3. What is the only protection from evil spirits? (157)

4. Why did the people wait until sundown before coming to Jesus at Peter's house? (158)

Reflection Jesus had never been more successful or popular than He was that day in Capernaum. Why did He want to leave so quickly?

Chapter 27

Healings in Capernaum

1. Why was leprosy called “the finger of God”? (160)

2. What were the two reasons why Jesus didn't want the healed leper to say anything to anyone? (161)

3. What was the one thing the paralyzed man wanted more than to be healed? (163)

4. Why did the Pharisees think Jesus was guilty of blasphemy? (164)

Reflection Who would you invite to church if Jesus was going to be there offering healing?
He is there every week offering forgiveness!

Matthew: A Tax Collector Becomes a Disciple

1. Why was it such a scandal when Jesus invited Matthew to join His disciples? (164)

2. What did Jesus show by eating with the tax collectors and their friends? (166, 167)

3. How did Jesus explain why He and His disciples didn't go without food (fast) for religious reasons? (168)

4. How was combining the rules and traditions of the Pharisees with the teachings of Jesus like putting new wine in old leather bags? (169)

Reflection How can we avoid the trap that the Pharisees fell into?

Chapter 29

Jesus and the Sabbath

1. What does the Sabbath give us time for? (171)

2. What led people to see God as a cruel dictator? (172)

3. What two examples from Scripture did Jesus use to answer the Pharisees' accusation that His disciples were breaking the Sabbath? (173)

4. The Pharisees would help an animal on Sabbath but not a person. How is this kind of thinking like all false religions? (174)

Reflection The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. How should that influence our Sabbath keeping?

Chapter 30

Messengers to the World

1. Which seven disciples worked most closely with Jesus? Which three spent the most time with Him? Which one was He closest to? (177)

2. Why would Judas never surrender his will to God? (178)

3. How did James and John's reputation as "sons of thunder" change? (179)

4. Why did Jesus choose people instead of angels to reach out to the world? (179, 180)

Reflection How can we connect the people around us to Jesus?

Chapter 31

The Sermon by the Sea

1. What did the disciples and the crowd expect to happen that day beside the sea? (182)

2. What was Jesus' agenda? (182)

3. How are impure thoughts a form of selfishness? (183)

4. How do we spread light to the world around us? (184)

5. What was the greatest error humans accepted in Jesus' day? (185)

6. What did Jesus mean when He said, "No one can serve two masters"? (186)

Reflection "When we criticize another person, we are only passing sentence on ourselves."
What does that mean?

Chapter 32

A Servant Is Healed, a Dead Man Comes to Life

1. Why did the elders want Jesus to heal the Roman officer's servant? Why did Jesus heal him? (189)

2. When Satan tells you that you are a sinner and deserve nothing, what can you say? (189)

3. Jesus' words have as much power today as they did when He spoke to the dead man outside Nain. What will those words do for us now and in the future? (191)

Reflection If Jesus brought someone back from the dead today, would everyone who witnessed it become a true Christian? Why or why not?

Chapter 33

Family Problems

1. Why were Jesus' family and friends worried about Him? (192)

2. What makes a sin "unforgivable"? (194)

3. What is our only real defense against selfishness and temptation? (194)

4. Jesus faced criticism and anger in His home and He understands those who suffer with the same situation. What does He invite them to do? (195)

Reflection How can any sin be unforgivable if Jesus even forgave those who killed Him?

Chapter 34

“The Load I Give You Is Light”

1. What is the heaviest burden that humans carry? (196)

2. What is the only thing that Jesus asks of us? How do we do that? (197)

3. What is the only thing that can bring us peace in this world? (198)

Reflection How can heaven begin here for those who accept and follow Jesus?

The Storm on the Sea

1. Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the storm? (200)

2. How is our battle with temptations similar to the disciples' fight with the storm? (201)

3. Why weren't the local people happy to see the demon-possessed men healed? (202)

4. What work did Jesus have for the healed men? (203)

5. What has caused the crime and moral decay in today's society? (203)

Reflection What made the healed men such effective missionaries?

Chapter 36

The Touch of Faith

1. How long had the woman been following Jesus? (205)

2. Why did Jesus insist on finding the person who had been healed by touching Him? (205)

3. What is true faith? (206)

Reflection What is your testimony—your story of finding and following Jesus? How could you use it to witness to others?

The First Evangelists

1. What were the disciples' duties as Jesus ministered to the crowds? (207)

2. Do we need to memorize Scriptures for the trials ahead? Why or why not? (209)

3. What does it mean to share Jesus with others? (210)

Reflection If we worked as Jesus did, what kind of evangelistic work would we do?

Chapter 38

Taking Time to Rest and Pray

1. What made Jesus see that the disciples needed more instruction after their missionary trips? (211)

2. What other factors caused Jesus to lead His disciples to a quiet secluded spot? (211, 212)

3. Why did Jesus need to turn away from His busy life and spend time with His Father? (213)

Reflection Have you ever heard the voice of God? What would allow you to do so?

Chapter 39

“Give Them Something to Eat”

1. Why was the crowd that found Jesus and the disciples so large? (214)

2. Besides Jesus' power, what was the simple food evidence of to the crowd? (215)

3. What powerful spiritual lesson was taught by the leftovers? (216)

Reflection How can we be a channel between God and the people we see each day?

Chapter 40

A Night on the Lake

1. What did the crowd assume would happen next? (218)

2. How did Jesus deal with the plan to seize Him and crown Him king? (219)

3. Why did Peter begin to sink as he walked on the water? (221)

Reflection Can you think of a time when you focused on a problem instead of on Jesus?

What happened? What can we do to keep our eyes on Jesus?

Chapter 41

The Crisis in Galilee

1. Why did the people expect to find Jesus where they had left Him the evening before? (222)

2. Why did the people think that perhaps Jesus wasn't sure that He really was the Promised One? (223)

3. Why didn't Jesus need to defend His reputation? (224)

4. What does eating the bread of heaven mean to each of us personally? (224)

5. Why did so many people abandon Jesus after that day? (226)

6. How did this help ease the way for the disciples later? (227)

Reflection Just as we have to eat for ourselves, we have to study for ourselves. What are some ways we could make time to study regularly?

Pulled Up by the Roots

1. What did Jesus hope to accomplish by showing everyone the truth about the rabbis' laws? (229)

2. How were the rabbis placing themselves above God? (229)

3. What should we point out when Christians and religious organizations claim that their traditions must be followed as closely as Scripture? (229)

Reflection Why do so many follow religious traditions instead of Scripture?

Breaking Down the Barriers

1. What could Jesus begin to teach by helping the Canaanite woman? (230)

2. What was Jesus trying to remind the disciples of when He sounded prejudiced? (231)

3. What is the only thing that can keep a person from heaven? (232)

Reflection How can we make sure that we don't encourage prejudices against people who are not in our church?

The Sign of Jonah

1. Why did the disciples doubt that Jesus would perform the miracle of the bread for the people of Decapolis? (234)

2. What is the sign of Jonah? (234, 235)

3. What miracle is always present when God's word is preached? (235)

4. What change is a real miracle and the true sign that God is working in our lives? (236)

Reflection How do we make it hard to people to accept what Jesus taught?

Chapter 45

The Coming Cross

1. Who was the rock on whom Jesus was building His church? (238)

2. What are the keys to the kingdom of heaven? (238)

3. How does the heart pumping blood through the body illustrate Jesus' love? (240)

Reflection What does it mean to be a link in the chain that was lowered down to save the world?

Jesus' Transformation

1. Why did Jesus want to comfort and strengthen these three disciples in particular? (242, 243)

2. How did the three beings on the mountain represent the future kingdom of glory? (243)

3. What did Moses and Elijah do for Jesus? (243)

Reflection What could you have said to encourage Jesus on that mountain, knowing what He was facing?

Chapter 47

The Battle

1. What did Jesus tell the three disciples about sharing what they had seen? Why? (245)

2. When the father realized that his own doubt might doom his son, what did he say? (246)

3. How can we be certain never to fall into sin? (247)

4. Why couldn't the other disciples cast the demon out of the boy? (247, 248)

Reflection What have you done this year to make your faith stronger?

Chapter 48

Who Will Be the Most Important?

1. How was the question about the temple tax supposed to trap Jesus? (249, 250)

2. What lesson did Jesus teach by paying the tax as He did? (250)

3. What type of person is the best follower of God? Why? (251)

4. What is one of the worst sins a person can commit? (252)

5. What does it mean when someone should be “treated as an unbeliever”? (253)

Reflection Do you see the principles Jesus taught being used among church members today? What should we be doing to improve that?

Chapter 49

Living Water

1. What was the Feast of Tabernacles about? How was it celebrated? (254)

2. Why did Jesus' brothers encourage Him to go to Jerusalem for the festival? (255)

3. Why did Jesus sneak in and speak to the people in the court of the temple? (256)

Reflection Why is water a good symbol of salvation?

Chapter 50

Traps

1. What question did the people ask that sent the Pharisees rushing to the priests to make plans to arrest Jesus? (258)

2. How did the priests and leaders create doubt among the people? (258)

3. How are people today deceived the same way the Jews were? (258)

4. How is the reasoning of the Pharisees and priests still used today? (259)

5. What did Jesus write in the sand? (260)

Reflection Jesus hates sin but loves sinners. What can we do to show the same attitude?

Chapter 51

The Light of the World

1. How does Jesus as the Sun of Righteousness compare to sunbeams? (262)

2. How does sin win the battle for our souls? (263)

3. What do people today do when they approach the Bible the same way the Jews judged Jesus? (264)

4. What did God declare when He provided a sacrifice in the place of Isaac? (265)

5. What was the healed man's answer when the Pharisees insisted that Jesus couldn't have healed him? (267)

Reflection Everyone is judged by how they respond to Jesus. How can we tell how a person has responded to Jesus?

Chapter 52

The Good Shepherd

1. In what three ways is Jesus shown to be the “Lamb of God”? (270)

2. How is Jesus like a shepherd to us today? (270, 271)

3. How does a good shepherd move his flock? (271)

4. Why does Jesus love humans as if we were His own children? (271)

Reflection Jesus used symbols like the shepherd to help people understand His love and His mission. What symbol might He use today that would help us understand?

Chapter 53

The Last Journey From Galilee

1. How did Jesus change His method of working as He neared the end of His ministry? (273)

2. What did Satan tempt Jesus with at this time? (273, 274)

3. What happens if we ignore the knock at our hearts? (275)

4. What is the only way salvation can be understood? What does this mean? (276)

Reflection The greatest, most respected religious leaders of that time didn't understand who Jesus was. But simple fisherman did. What does this say to us today?

Chapter 54

The Good Samaritan

1. What is the best way to deal with misguided thinking? (278)

2. Why did the priest and temple worker leave the wounded man to die? (279)

3. Who is our neighbor? (279)

4. What does the story of the good Samaritan and Jesus' life show us? (280)

Reflection Have we joined Jesus in saving humanity? When we see a person distressed, what is our response?

God's Kingdom Is in You

1. When did the disciples actually begin to understand Jesus' life and mission? (281)

2. How does the kingdom of God come to human hearts? (282)

3. Why did Jesus keep out of government issues? (283)

Reflection Jesus didn't try to change the government even when it was dishonest and cruel. Does that mean that Christians should stay out of politics? Why or why not?

Chapter 56

Jesus Loved Children

1. Why did Jesus enjoy children so much? (284)

2. How can even an infant come under God's influence? (285)

3. Why is it important for a mother to teach her children to obey because they love her? (285)

4. How is training a rose bush similar to rearing children? (286)

Reflection Where do you see Jesus in nature? What does it tell you about Him?

The Wealthy Young Leader

1. What was missing from the wealthy young man's commandment-keeping life? (288)

2. What does truly obeying God's law mean? (289)

3. What is the only way for God to save humans? (289)

Reflection Could you obey properly but not keep the commandments? How would you be sure of the difference?

Chapter 58

Lazarus

1. Why did Jesus enjoy visiting Lazarus's house? (290)

2. When Jesus seemed to forget about Lazarus being sick, why did that worry the disciples? (291)

3. What were the two reasons Jesus allowed Lazarus to die? (292)

4. What did both Mary and Martha say when they saw Jesus? (293)

5. Why did Jesus cry? What pain did He feel? (294)

6. What did Jesus' prayer before raising Lazarus show? (295)

Reflection What would be harder—to not have the power to stop pain and suffering and death, or to have the power to stop it but have to allow it anyway? How hard would it be to have Jesus' power?

Chapter 59

Plots and Plans

1. Why did the Sadducees now agree with the Pharisees that Jesus had to die? (296)

2. What was Caiaphas's reasoning for why Jesus had to die? (297)

3. Why did the Sanhedrin have to be patient and wait to kill Jesus? (298)

Reflection Wasn't it better for one person to die than for the country to be destroyed? What is wrong with this kind of thinking?

Chapter 60

Positions of Power

1. Why was Jesus' heart at peace even knowing what was waiting for Him in Jerusalem? (299)

2. Who will be the one who stands next to Jesus in God's kingdom? (300)

3. What is different about the principles of Jesus' kingdom? (301)

Reflection Why do people in church sometimes try to control other people's thoughts and actions? How do we teach church standards and doctrines without trying to control others?

Chapter 61

Zacchaeus

1. What was Zacchaeus's response to hearing the stories of Jesus? (302)

2. How do we know if repentance is real? (303)

3. How is holiness measured? (303)

Reflection What does the story of Zacchaeus teach us about Christian business practices?

Chapter 62

Mary Anoints Jesus

1. Why did the Sanhedrin decide that Lazarus must be killed along with Jesus? (305, 306)

2. Why did Mary buy the fragrant lotion? Why did she decide to use it at the feast? (306)

3. How did Mary's gift bring comfort to Jesus in the days ahead? (307)

4. Why did Judas decide to betray Jesus at this time? (308)

5. How did Jesus help Simon understand forgiveness? (309)

Reflection The worst things you've done, the more you need Jesus. What does Jesus' repeated forgiveness of Mary say to you?

Jesus Announced as Israel's King

1. Why did Jesus ride to the city on a donkey? (311, 312)

2. Why did Jesus allow this demonstration? (312)

3. What did Jesus mean when He said the stones would shout? (313)

4. What would have happened if Jerusalem had accepted Jesus? (314)

Reflection Jesus wept because Jerusalem and His people had rejected Him. How does He feel about your church? Your school? Your home?

Chapter 64

Doomed

1. How was the cursed fig tree a symbol of the Jewish nation? How did the other leafless trees in the orchard represent non-Jewish nations? (316)

2. How are some today like the fig tree? (317)

3. How are many who reject the Bible and live by their own judgment today like those who questioned Jesus' words? (317)

Reflection How can you tell whether or not you're just going through the motions of being a Christian?

Cleansing the Temple Again

1. What had the priests and rulers twisted the symbols of the Lamb of God into? (318)

2. What did the priests and leaders expect to see when they crept back into the temple? What did they find instead? (319)

3. What new plan did the Sanhedrin come up with? (320)

4. Whom did the first son in the story represent? What about the second son? (321)

5. Whom did the priests and leaders condemn with their answer to the story of the farmers and the vineyard? (322)

6. What does “to fall on the stone and be broken” mean? (323)

Reflection Which person do you tend to be like—the first son in Jesus’ story or the second son?

Chapter 66

Jesus Confuses His Enemies

1. What did the Sadducees believe about God? How did that mold their characters? (325)

2. What can we do to understand the mysteries of life that have no answers? (326)

3. Which commandment is the most important? (326)

4. What does all the law center in? (327)

Reflection What did Jesus teach about paying taxes? How does that apply today?

Jesus' Last Visit to the Temple

1. Why were the people so confused? (328)

2. If Jesus were on earth today, what would He say about those who carry titles such as *Reverend* or *Father*? (329)

3. What determines the value of our actions? (330)

4. How were the Pharisees like tombs painted white? (331)

5. How were the Jews constantly reminded of the story of Zechariah? (332)

Reflection How have the widow's two coins been a greater gift than anything the rich people gave? How does it demonstrate the power of a good example?

Chapter 68

“We Want to See Jesus”

1. Whom did the three men from Greece represent? (333)

2. How does a grain of wheat illustrate Jesus' life? (334)

3. When the Voice spoke from the cloud over Jesus, what did the light do? (335)

4. What else did the Cross do besides save humans? (336)

Reflection How does the law of self-sacrifice apply in your life? What does it mean to sacrifice your life for others?

Signs of the Second Coming

1. Why did Jesus mingle the descriptions of the destruction of Jerusalem with the Second Coming? (337)

2. How did Jesus tell the disciples to escape the destruction of Jerusalem? (338)

3. What specific signs did Jesus give of His second coming? (339)

4. How is the time of Jesus' return like the days of Noah? (340)

5. What can we do while we wait for His return? (340, 341)

Reflection How do you feel about the future? Does Jesus' return seem near to you, or could it still be years and years away?

Chapter 70

The Poor and Suffering

1. In the judgment, what determines peoples' eternal destiny? (342)

2. How can we minister to Jesus without seeing Him? (343)

3. How can those who have never heard of Jesus be saved? (343)

4. Where do we need to go to walk in the steps of Jesus? (344)

Reflection Jesus created the Church because we can do more together than individually.
What is your church doing that you could not do alone?

Chapter 71

Servant of Servants

1. Jesus knew what suffering and heartbreak were waiting for Him. But what was His chief concern that evening? (347)

2. What argument among the disciples led to the foot-washing crisis? (347)

3. What three things did Jesus hope to make them understand? (347)

4. What change did Jesus create by washing their feet? (349)

5. Why should we repeat this service? (350)

Reflection What memories does a foot-washing service bring to your mind? How could you make it more like the experience the disciples had?

Chapter 72

The Lord's Supper

1. What was the Passover created to celebrate? What was the Lord's Supper created to celebrate? (351)

2. Why did Jesus tell His disciples that Judas would betray Him? (353)

3. Whom should we forbid to celebrate communion? (353)

4. What does this service remind us of? (354)

5. What does eating Jesus' body and drinking His blood mean? (355)

Reflection What would be the value of celebrating the Lord's Supper in your life? What would it do for you?

Chapter 73

Words of Hope

1. What should Jesus' followers be doing while He is building mansions for them? (356)

2. What did Jesus come to the world to show? (357)

3. What does God see when we stand before Him in prayer? (358)

4. How can we come to God with our concerns and know what direction to take? (358)

5. What is the advantage of having the Holy Spirit here instead of Jesus? (359)

6. What did the Holy Spirit do for the disciples? (359)

7. How does the Holy Spirit expel false teachings from our hearts? (360)

8. What must we do to receive the help of the Holy Spirit? (360)

9. How are we like the branches of a grapevine? (362)

10. How can we be certain a person has a real connection to Jesus? (362)

Reflection What does it show when people take care of one another? What is it evidence of? Do you see it in your church? Your school? Yourself?

Chapter 74

Gethsemane

1. What weighed so heavily on Jesus as He and His disciples approached Gethsemane? (365)

2. What was at stake for Satan in this struggle in the garden? (366)

3. Jesus longed for sympathy and encouragement, but the disciples slept. Why did they sleep? (367)

4. How many times did Jesus turn away from a final decision? What convinced Him to go on? (368)

5. Why did Judas kiss Jesus? (369)

Reflection In the garden, Jesus tasted the full awfulness of sin. What can help us realize how bad sin is and how much we want to leave it behind forever?

The Illegal Trial

1. Why did they take Jesus before Annas first? (371)

2. What two crimes did they need to charge Jesus with? (372)

3. Why was Jesus' trial harder to bear than it would have been for us? (372)

4. Why was Caiaphas jealous of Jesus? (374)

5. What thoughts flashed through Caiaphas's mind when Jesus answered his question? (375)

6. Why was Jesus' trial here illegal? (376)

7. What broke Peter's heart after he denied Jesus? How could he have been strong enough not to deny Jesus? (377)

8. When the Sanhedrin again found Jesus guilty and the mob attacked Him, what would have happened if the Roman soldiers hadn't stepped in? (378, 379)

Reflection How did Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin seem to be so religious when they were actually evil? Could people today who appear to be religious leaders actually be evil? How can we tell?

Chapter 76

Judas

1. Why didn't Judas become more like Jesus as the other disciples did? (381)

2. What plans did Judas want Jesus to follow? (381)

3. How did Judas "have it all figured out"? (383)

4. What did Judas think would happen in the garden? (383)

5. What was Judas's response when Jesus refused to free himself? (384)

Reflection Does Judas's attachment to Jesus sound familiar? Do people today follow Jesus with a plan of their own about how the church and other people's lives should be run? How can we avoid being that way ourselves?

Chapter 77

The Roman Trial

1. Why wouldn't the Jewish leaders enter Pilate's hall? (385)

2. What did they do when Pilate wanted to hear the charges against Jesus? (386)

3. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod? (388)

4. Why was Herod delighted to see Jesus? Why would Jesus not speak to Him? (388, 389)

5. How was Pilate given help from heaven on dealing with Jesus? (390)

6. Who led out in the shout, "Crucify him!"? (391)

7. What evidence showed Jesus' divinity? (392)

8. As much as they hated the Romans, what were the Jewish leaders ready to do to get rid of Jesus? (393)

9. Pilate wanted to save Jesus. Why didn't he? What soon happened to him? (394)

10. What will be the experience of those priests and leaders at the Second Coming? (395)

Reflection How do you react when you are falsely accused? Why is it so difficult for humans to remain at peace with each other?

Chapter 78

Jesus Dies on the Cross

1. Why did Jesus collapse when the cross was placed on His shoulders? (396)

2. What was Jesus' response to the soldiers who treated Him so roughly? (398)

3. What was the effect of the sign over Jesus' head? (399)

4. The thief on the cross had heard Jesus teach, but what happened? (400)

5. What made the thief's words so special to Jesus? (401)

6. What did Jesus give His mother that she needed most? How was John blessed? (401)

7. What caused Jesus' intense suffering on the cross? (402)

8. Why did the sun dim and a cloud of darkness cover the area? (402)

9. What happened as Jesus died? (404)

Reflection All that Jesus suffered on the cross speaks to each of us. What does it say to you?

The Defeat of Satan

1. Why didn't God destroy Satan and his fellow rebels at the beginning? (405)

2. When was Satan's disguise torn away? (407)

3. How are humans as sinners in a different situation from Satan? (407)

4. How can those who believe in Jesus live out the righteousness that the law requires? (408)

5. What did Jesus prove by His life and death? (408)

6. What will the last battle of the great controversy be fought over? (408)

7. When the great controversy is over and the plan of salvation is completed, what two things will be clear? (409)

Reflection Does the destruction of sin and sinners seem like a cold or heartless act to you? Why or why not?

Chapter 80

Jesus Rests

1. Which three people declared their faith in Jesus on the day He died? (410, 411)

2. Why were the priests and leaders amazed to find that Jesus was dead? (411)

3. What did Jesus die of? (412)

4. Why did Nicodemus and Joseph step in to help the disciples bury Jesus' body? (413)

5. What happened on that sleepless Sabbath as many people studied the prophecies? (413, 414)

6. What did the soldiers do to seal Jesus' tomb? (415)

Reflection How can our expectations of what Jesus should do for us lead us to disappointment?

Resurrection Morning

1. What happened right at dawn? (416)

2. How had the priests outsmarted themselves with the story they wanted the soldiers to tell? (417)

3. What types of persons were resurrected from the grave with Jesus? What did these people do? (419)

Reflection What does the promise of the resurrection mean to you? Who do you long to see that day?

“Why Are You Crying?”

1. What did the angels at the tomb remind the women of? (421)

2. How was Jesus' grave clothes evidence that He was alive? (421)

3. Why would the disciples not believe the reports of Mary and the other women? (422)

4. What was Jesus' first work after His resurrection? (423)

Reflection Do we ever do the same thing the disciples were doing—remain lonely and depressed when Jesus is right beside us?

The Road to Emmaus

1. What did the two disciples discuss as they walked home? (424)

2. What did Jesus work to convince them of without any miracles? (425)

3. How did they recognize Jesus? (427)

Reflection Jesus will gladly enter any home, but only if He is asked. Have you been too busy or too uninterested to ask Him into your home?

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

1. What was the reaction of the disciples when Jesus appeared among them in the room? (428)

2. What did Jesus do to convince them that He was real? (429)

3. How will we recognize our friends and loved ones after the resurrection? (429)

4. What did the disciples have to share with the world? (429)

5. What does any doubter—like Thomas—need? (431)

Reflection What will happen to us if we insist on having all our doubts removed? What doubts do you live with?

By the Lake Once More

1. Why did the disciples go fishing again that night as they waited in Galilee? (432)

2. What reminded them of the day Jesus had asked them to follow Him? (433)

3. How did Jesus show that Peter had truly repented of denying Jesus and become humble? (434)

4. What happened to Peter in the future? Did Jesus give Peter any authority over the other disciples or the Church? (435, 436)

Reflection If we treated others the way Jesus treated Peter, how would our churches and schools be different?

Promises in Galilee

1. How many disciples of Jesus met together on the hillside in Galilee? (437)

2. Why was the disciples' work to begin in Jerusalem? (439)

3. Why were the disciples given the gift of languages? (440)

4. Where should we begin the work Jesus has given us? (440)

5. What did Jesus teach about health? (441)

6. What will melt hearts and change lives like nothing else we can share? (442)

Reflection: "Jesus is sitting for a portrait in every one of His followers." What does that mean to you?

The Triumphant Return to Heaven

1. Why did Jesus stay on earth for as long as He did after the Resurrection? (443)

2. What were Jesus' last words with His disciples? (444)

3. Why did the two angels stay behind? (444)

4. Why did the disciples no longer fear for the future? (445)

5. What did the voice of God proclaim as Jesus stood before Him? (446)

Reflection What does it mean to you that Jesus is in heaven today, a human like you are?
