

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#12 - The Pharisees Try to Trip Up Jesus Luke 5:33-39, 6:1-11

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 12-1 Old and new wine skins
- 12-2 Disciples picking grain on the Sabbath

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) How did Jesus heal the leper? When Jesus saw the faith of the men who brought the paralytic to him, what did he say? What was the reaction of the Pharisees to what Jesus said? What did Jesus do after he forgave the man's sin? What did Jesus say was the purpose of the miracles he performed?
- **Big Question Review:** What do the miracles Jesus performed show about him? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** John 10:37-38
Miracles show that Jesus and the Father are one.

³⁷Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. ³⁸But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

Jesus picked twelve men to be his disciples. What were Jesus' disciples like? They were ordinary men. Some were fishermen. One was a tax collector who was really despised (dislike) by people. They weren't important leaders from the community.

Who do you think were the important leaders in the Jewish community? Because Rome controlled the area, the important Jewish leaders weren't civic government leaders; they were the religious leaders and teachers of the Jewish law. They were called Pharisees. In his Gospel Matthew records what Jesus had to say about the Pharisees.

Matthew 23:23

²³ *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former."*

What does Jesus call the teachers of the law and Pharisees? Hypocrites What is a hypocrite? A hypocrite is somebody who pretends to have admirable principles, beliefs, or qualities but behaves otherwise. If you called someone a Pharisee today it would mean that they are a pretender, acting like they do everything right but having a deceptive, conniving heart on the inside.

What do you think was the big problem the Pharisees had with Jesus? The Pharisees wanted to be the ones people looked up to. They didn't like the fact that people were listening to and following Jesus. They were always trying to trip him up in some way. They were the ones who wanted to kill him to put a stop to his teaching and influence.

In this lesson we will read some of the accusations the Pharisees made against Jesus.

Luke 5:33-35

³³*They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."*

³⁴*Jesus answered, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"*

³⁵*But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."*

What is fasting? Fasting is going without eating for a specific period of time, usually for religious reasons to draw close to God.

For the Jews a wedding was a joyous occasion with the celebration lasting up to a week. What does Jesus mean when he compares himself to the bridegroom? For his disciples this was a time of celebration as he was with them. There was no need for them to fast. Once he was taken away there would be sorrow and despair and his disciples would fast to draw close to him.

Luke 5:36-39 (picture 12-1)

³⁶He told them this parable: "No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.' "

What does it mean that you can't pour new wine into old wineskins? New wine is still fermenting and needs space to expand. An old wineskin has been fully stretched and so if new wine is put into it, it will burst. New wine has to be put into a new wineskin that has room to stretch with the fermenting wine.

What does this mean in terms of coming to and believing in Jesus? You have to give up your old ways and ideas and be made into a new creature in Christ. You can't hold on to your old self. The Pharisees were old wineskins. They needed to be made new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

The Pharisees added all kind of restrictions to God's Law about things people could or couldn't do on the Sabbath. What is the Sabbath? The Sabbath was the holy day of rest for the Jewish people set apart by God in the Ten Commandments. It was the seventh day of the week.

Jesus did things on the Sabbath that the Pharisees didn't like. It was against their man-made laws. Jesus explained the greater meaning of the Sabbath.

Luke 6:1-11 (picture 12-2)

¹One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ²Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

³Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." ⁵Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁶On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

¹⁰He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

According to the Pharisees, what was unlawful to do on the Sabbath? Do anything that could, in the slightest way, be called work such as: pick grain if they were hungry, heal a person, etc.

What did Jesus say should be done on the Sabbath? Whatever is needed, is good and saves lives.

How did the Pharisees respond to what Jesus said and did? They were furious and were trying to figure out a way to stop him from influencing the people.

What does their response to Jesus show about the Pharisees? They were only pretending to be good. They weren't really good inside. They didn't want to see themselves as sinners like everyone else.

What needed to happen to the Pharisees? They were hypocrites They needed to see themselves as they really were, sinners in need of a Savior. They needed to see their need to be made new by a work of God in them.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Who does the bridegroom refer to? When will the guests of the bridegroom fast? Why? What should the guests do while they are with the bridegroom? Why? What does the parable of the wineskin mean? According to the Pharisees what was unlawful to do on the Sabbath? What did Jesus say is right to do on the Sabbath?
- **Thought Questions:** Why is it important to set aside a day of rest to worship and honor God? What are things that are right to do on the Sabbath? What would be things that one shouldn't do on the Sabbath?
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus that he came to make all things new and bring all men back into a right relationship with God. Pray that you would be a new wineskin and completely open to Jesus to make you into a new person. Pray that you would be aware of any way that you shut Jesus out of your life.
- **The Big Question:** What was Jesus' problem with the Pharisees? Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Matthew 23:23**
The Pharisees pretended to be good but really weren't.

²³ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

Questions: What did Jesus call the Pharisees? What does that mean? What did he say they should do? What does that mean? What did he tell them to do?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: The Pharisees didn't like Jesus and were always looking for a way to catch Jesus doing something wrong.

1. The Pharisees pretended to be good but really weren't. They were like something that looked clean on the inside but was all dirty on the inside.
2. The Pharisees accused Jesus of doing what was unlawful to do on the Sabbath.
3. Jesus said on the Sabbath one should do good, not evil.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Crossword Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle with words of things that Jesus spoke about or were important to the Jews of his time.

Pharisees Jewish religious leaders

Synagogue Jewish place of worship

Sabbath Holy day of rest

Fasting Going without eating to draw close to God

Hypocrite Someone who pretends to be good but isn't

Disciple A follower

Priest Leader in the temple

Unlawful Something that is against God's law

David A important king of Israel

Moses A prophet to whom God gave the law

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Matthew 23:1-12 Jesus speaks against the Pharisees.

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ² "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. ³ So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

⁵ "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

⁸ "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. ⁹ And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Questions: What did Jesus say was wrong with the Pharisees? Who will be the greatest in the Kingdom of God? Why?

JOURNAL

The daily journal inside the booklet has six readings that relate to a theme. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Journal Focus: What will we do if we truly want to follow Jesus?

Reading 1: 1 John 1:5-10 We will walk in the light.

What does John mean when he says, "God is light"? What happens to us if we walk in darkness? What happens to us if we walk in the light? What shows that the truth is in us? When does Jesus forgive our sin?

Reading 2: 1 John 2:1-6 We will obey God's commands.

When we sin who speaks to the Father in our defense? Why is he able to do that? What shows that we know and belong to Jesus?

Reading 3: 1 John 2:7-11 We will love our brother.

What shows we live in the light? What does it mean to love our brother? What happens if we hate our brother? What does it mean to hate our brother?

Reading 4: 1 John 2:15-17 We will not love the world.

What happens if we love the world? What are the things of the world? What would loving those things mean we would do? What happens to the person who rejects the world and does the will of God?

Reading 5: 1 John 2:18-25 We will remain in the truth.

What is the difference between the lie and the truth? What does it mean to deny Jesus is the Christ? How do people do that? What is the outcome of remaining in the truth?

Reading 6: Matthew 23:1-12 We will serve others.

What did Jesus say was wrong with the Pharisees? Who will be the greatest in the Kingdom of God? Why?