

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' messages, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

The Jesus You Never Noticed
Part 1 - He Was A Root Out Of A Dry Ground
Isaiah 53:1 - 3

1. Please read and consider Hebrews 5:7 - 9
2. Under the surface of every one of us is a private life; a life of struggles, disappointments and temptations, as well as joys and victories. What do these experiences do for, and to us?

3. There are 30 'silent' years in the record of the life of Jesus. What was happening to Jesus during that time?

4. Please read and consider Luke 2:52.
5. Name the 4 areas where He would have grown:

I _____ S _____
P _____ S _____

6. Notice that Jesus 'grew' in all these areas; so what does that tell us?

7. So this brings us again to today's scriptures that we would do well to read again, **Isaiah 53:1 - 3** in the light of what we have just discussed.

8. What was the **Environment** like where Jesus grew up?

Here are some clues: a. Where was He born?
b. What happened when He was still just a baby?
c. What kind of place [town] did He grow up in?
d. What did the local people think of Him?

9. What do we know about His **Personal Appearance**? Read and consider Isaiah 53:2b.

10. So this begs the question; why was Jesus described as 'the perfect man?'
What were the qualities that would cause Him to be described as 'the perfect man'.

11. And what about His **Social Interactions**? Read and consider Isaiah 53:3
Identify the interactions listed in this verse; there are 6 of them.

Final Thoughts

During the 30 'silent years' of Jesus' life Jesus learned
- through the cries and tears - obedience from what He suffered.

He was rejected by his peers; even His own brothers did not believe Him.

One commentator has noted that:
there was nothing in His personal appearance that corresponded
to the expectations that had been formed of Him;
nothing that would lead them to desire Him as their expected deliverer,
but rather everything that would induce them to reject Him.

It is interesting to note that, as God, Jesus inspired the scriptures;
but as a human being He still had to learn to read them.

So what is the point of exploring all this?

Read and consider Hebrews 5:8

God is working, molding, perfecting us through issues
that are going on in our personal and private world
that few other people know anything about.

Obedience - is learned
Obedience - drives us back to dependence on Him.

And Jesus has already been down this road before us; learning obedience!

Message Guide & Questions

The Jesus You Never Noticed

Part 2 - This Is My Beloved Son

Luke 3:21 - 23 a

1. Read and consider John 1:6 - 9 & 29 - 34, and Luke 3:21 - 23a.

2. Let's start with the questions; how old was Jesus when He was 'introduced' to the public, and who was it who did this?

3. Read and consider John 1:31 and verses 33 – 34.

4. Did anyone know of the calling of Jesus before He was publicly revealed as the Son of God? Consider Luke 2:19.

5. The Baptism of Jesus was one of a very few times in scripture when something came together. Do you know what that was?

6. We will look first at: **What Was The Role of the Son?**
 Why was Jesus baptized by John? Read and consider Luke 3:3.
 Baptism is a 'symbol' - but a symbol of what?

7. What is **The Role of the Father?** Read and consider Matthew 3:16.

8. Now read Luke 3:21. What happened next?

9. Now read and consider Acts 10:38 and John 3:34 - 35.

Final Thoughts

We have to consider this;
what did it mean for Jesus, who was by nature God,
and who was never less than God,
to become human,
and to live as though He were never more than a man,
subject to all the limitations of humanity?

Sometimes, when God shows us things, or we sense His spirit speaking,
it is good to lock them away in our heart,
and wait for things to come to pass that confirm them.

We must be very clear in our understanding of the Trinity.
There is just ONE God, who exists in three persons.
The Father is NOT the Son,
the Son is NOT the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Spirit is NOT the Father
Yet, they are together ONE GOD

It is important to remember:
OUR Baptism represents OUR identification with Christ.
HIS Baptism represents HIS identification with us.

Please read and consider: 2 Corinthians 5:21
So, He was standing in the place of the sinner.

Message Guide & Questions

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 3 - Under Attack By Satan Matthew 4:1 - 11

1. Read and consider Matthew 4:1 – 11. What is the one thing that unites us all?

2. Read and consider the following scriptures:

Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 2:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

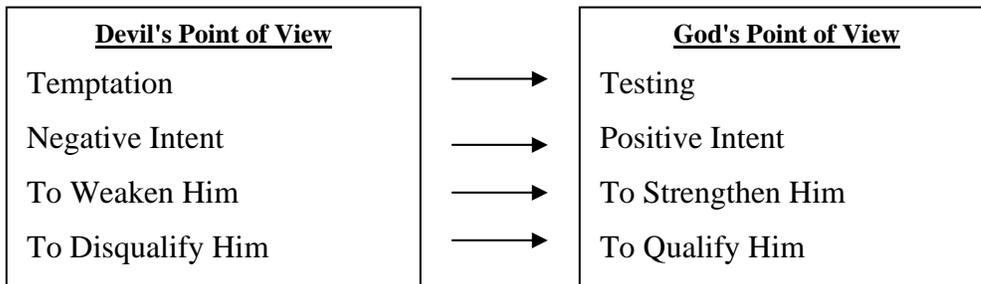
3. In this study we are going to look at the temptations of Jesus in order to find some encouragement in our own battle with temptation and sin.

The first thing we will look at is: **The Occasion of His Temptation**

Read and consider more closely Matthew 4:1.

4. From where does temptation originate? Read and consider James 1:13.

5. It is important to understand the temptations of Jesus from two points of view, as the same applies to us. Both the Devil and Jesus are participants; and they both have a vested interest.



6. **The Opportunity of His Temptation**

What gave the devil his opportunity to tempt Jesus?

Read and consider Ephesians 4:27; Matthew 4:1 and Luke 4:1 – 2.

What do we learn from this?

7. Famous people: politicians, sportsmen, actors etc. often feel emboldened by a

sense of entitlement that makes them think that the usual rules of decency do not apply to them. Can you think of any such people?

8. Consider how Eve was tempted in the Garden of Eden. Read Genesis 3:6. In what three areas of vulnerability was Eve tempted?

9. Can you identify contrasts between the Temptation of Jesus and the Temptation of Eve?

Jesus was tempted to give in to S _____

Eve was tempted to give in to W _____

10. **The Opposition to the Temptation**

How did Jesus resist these Temptations? Read James 4:7.

11. What does it say in:

Matthew 4:4 Quoted by Jesus from Deuteronomy 8:3

Matthew 4:7 Quoted by Jesus from Deuteronomy 6:16

Matthew 4:10 Quoted by Jesus from Deuteronomy 6:13

12. This is the most important thing to remember and to apply to your life:

a. You **resist the devil** - by S _____ to God

b. You **submit to God** - by O _____ Him

c. You **obey Him** - by S _____ to His Word

d. You **submit to His Word** - by K _____ His Word

Final Thoughts

It is normal to think that our temptations are unique to us,
but that is not true.
Even if no other human being was tempted as we are [which is not the case],
Jesus Himself suffered EVERY temptation that we go through.

The main thing to remember from today's study
is that the Word of God itself is our most powerful weapon of defense against
temptation; therefore we must KNOW it, and spend time IN it.

Daily reading the Word of God equips us for the daily battles of life.
We are assured of victory ONLY if we equip ourselves with God's Word
.... otherwise we become vulnerable to all manner of temptations.

There is no short cut to victory!

Message Guide & Questions

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 4 - Moving From Fullness To Power Luke 4:1 - 3a & 13 - 15

1. Please read and consider Luke 4:1 - 3a and verses 14 – 15.
What had Jesus been involved in when He was in the dessert?

2. To get a better understanding we will look at 3 areas in which Jesus was tested that also apply to us. The first being:

1. His Attitude to His Resources Read Luke 4:2 – 4.

When Jesus was hungry after not eating for 40 days, Jesus was essentially faced with two choices. What were they?

3. Now we will take a look at the three kinds of resources that we have.

a. Material Resources Read and consider Philippians 4:19.

4. **b. Emotional Resources**

Can you identify some of our emotional resources/needs?

5. **c. Spiritual Resources** Read and consider Genesis 22:1 – 2.

6. The second area of testing was:

2. His Attitude to His Responsibility Read and consider Luke 4:5 – 8.

7. Read and consider Mark 10:45.

What important lesson do we learn from this?

8. Read and consider Hebrew 5:8 & Matthew 28:18.

What did Jesus need to learn?

9. The third area of testing was:

3. His Attitude Towards His Reputation

Read and consider Luke 4:9-12.

10. Read and consider Philippians 2:7, and then Philippians 2:8 – 11.

11. So now Jesus is ready to minister in the power of the Spirit.

Read and consider: Luke 4:32; Luke 4:33; Luke 4:36; Luke 4:40.

Something had happened to Jesus, that by the end of that chapter in verse 42 He had to find a solitary place to hide because people were seeking Him out.

Final Thoughts

Remember from our last study;
the devil's agenda of the temptation was to disqualify Jesus,
but God's purpose in allowing the temptation was that the successful resisting of the
temptation would qualify and empower Jesus for His future ministry;
and that applies to us too.

Temptation can often be driven by material needs,
but if materialism is our motivation, it will become our master, and it will corrupt us.
Yes, God will often take us beyond our spiritual resources;
but then our choice is - do we manipulate events or do we trust God?

If you manipulate yourself into any position or situation,
you can be sure there will be someone else trying to manipulate you out.

The '**Fullness of the Spirit**' may be the result of a moment,
but in Jesus' case
the '**Power of the Spirit**' was the result of a 'process'.

Power does not come **easily or cheaply!**
Power can be **dangerous!**
Power may **corrupt** - even spiritual power.

Here are 3 important questions:

1. Do you trust God for your **Resources**?
Or are you **driven by the need to control your resources**?

2. Do you trust God for your **Responsibilities**?
Or do you try to **manipulate** your way into positions and situations?

3. Do you trust God for your **Reputation**?
**Or do you accept that you do not have to prove anything,
nor put on a performance?**

Message Guide & Questions

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 5 - The Uniqueness Of Christ: Listen To Him Luke 9:28 - 36

1. Read and consider Luke 9:28 – 36.
2. If we look at the three major religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam, what is it that each of them is individually centered on?

3. Consider what you think about this statement:

“The Universe of Religious Faiths all centre on God - not on Christ or any other singular hero of a particular religion. Therefore, the politically correct way to pray at any public event should be 'In the Name of the God of Abraham, Jesus and Mohammed', so as to include everyone and offend no-one.”

4. Why is it, then, that as Christians we cannot accept this statement?
Read and consider what Jesus said of Himself in John 14:6.
5. Read also Acts 4:12. What do you think would have been the reaction of the elders and rulers in Jerusalem?

6. Now read and consider Matthew 5:17.
7. Read and consider John 5:39.
8. Now read and consider Luke 9:34 - 36 which reveals another aspect of the 'uniqueness of Christ'.
9. Take a close look at these other scriptures:
Luke 9:18 – 20; John 8:42; John 8:51; John 8:58

10.

Compare that which other religions offer to the 'unique' claims of Jesus

I will teach you the truth	Jesus said: I AM the Truth
I will give you the life	Jesus said: I AM the Life
I will open the door	Jesus said: I AM the Door
I will feed you the bread	Jesus said: I AM the Bread of Life
I will switch on the light	Jesus said: I AM the Light of the World
I will give you good shepherds	Jesus said: I AM the Good Shepherd

Message Guide & Questions

**The Jesus You Never Noticed
Part 6 - The Dark Night Of His Soul
Matthew 26:36 - 40**

1. Please read and consider Matthew 26:36 – 46.
2. What was going on in the heart of Jesus at this time? Read and consider John 12:27.

3. As we take a look at this very difficult time in the life of Jesus we will break it down into 3 sections.

1. It was a Time of Sorrow Read again Matthew 26:37 – 38.

4. 'Sorrow' as experienced by Jesus at this time, is a very deep emotion. Consider what this tells us about Jesus/God.

5. It is important that we know not only the 'mind of God' but also the 'heart of God'.
6. List some of the Positive Emotions, and the Negative Emotions that the heart of God knows.

<u>Positive Emotions</u>	<u>Negative Emotions</u>
L _ _ _ _	G _ _ _ _
J _ _	P _ _ _
G _ _ _ _ _ _ _	S _ _ _ _ _
P _ _ _ _ _ _	S _ _ _ _ _

7. Why did Jesus feel such 'deep emotions' in the Garden of Gethsemane?

8. It is important to note that 'sorrow' is not an end in itself, but it leads to something that lies beyond. Read John 12:27 and then John 14:1.

9. **2. A Time of Surrender** Read again Matthew 26:38 – 39.

What is 'this cup' that Jesus is referring to here? Read also Matthew 26:27 – 28.

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10. In a sense, the Cross was an exchange of C _ _ _ .
Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.
11. **3. A Time of Sanity**
Take a close look at what Jesus prayed in Matthew 26: 39, and then in verse 42
12. If we were to honestly examine most prayers of Christians we would have to admit that most of the time we are praying for things that WE want, rather than asking God to help us to seek after and accept HIS will for our lives.
- To help re-balance our perspective on this, please read and consider the following verses: Isaiah 55:8 - 9 and 1 Corinthians 1:21.
13. To many people, surrendering their life would seem like an act of insanity - but in fact, the opposite is true. Consider Matthew 15:25 – 26.
14. Finally, read carefully and consider Philippians 2:5 – 8.

Final Thoughts

The life of Jesus was a life-long experience of learning obedience to His Father.

Read and consider: Hebrews 5:8 - 9, Philippians 2:5 - 8.

The hour of His crucifixion was the reason He came into the world,
but behind it lay the spirit of obedience to His Father.

It is this 'spirit of obedience' to which we need to aspire.

That place of surrender leads us into a life that is guided by the Lord
along paths that He has prepared for us;

paths that will ultimately bring us the greatest joy and fulfillment.

These paths may also lead us through times of sorrow,
but as we continue to trust Him in obedience
there is always light at the end.

Message Guide & Questions

**The Jesus You Never Noticed
Part 7 - The Road To The Cross
Luke 19:37 - 48**

- 1. Please read carefully Luke 19:37 – 48.
- 2. It was not enough that the religious leaders of the day were full of personal prejudices against Jesus, in order to have Him put to death they needed legal grounds as well, so. . .

1. The Sanhedrin Council Plots His Death

Read Luke 20:1 – 2.

- 3. These religious leaders got their breakthrough which we read about in Luke 22:4.

4. **2. Jesus was brought before Annas, the previous High Priest**

Read John 18:12. What was Jesus questioned about?
 What happened physically to Jesus?

5. **3. Jesus brought before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin Council**

Read Matthew 26:59 – 61. What were they looking for?

- 6. Referring to Matthew 20:60 - 61 and then 63 – 66 what 2 charges did they bring against Jesus?

7. **4. Jesus was brought before Pilate**

Read Luke 23:1 – 3. What were the 4 other charges laid on Jesus?

- 8. Pilate was no fool, and he knew what the real reason was behind the Sanhedrin bringing these charges again Jesus. What was that reason?
Read Luke 23:4 and then Matthew 27:18.

9. **5. Jesus was brought before Herod**

Read Luke 23:5 – 7. How did Herod respond?

10. **6. Sent Jesus to Pilate for a Second Time**

Read Luke 23:13 – 25. What did Pilate do now?

11. What was the final cowardly act of Pilate?

12. **7. Jesus handed over to the soldiers to be Crucified**

To be crucified was a cruel and terrifying ordeal. In the lead-up to actually being nailed to the cross He was subjected to several humiliations.

i Matthew 27:26 _____

ii verse 28 _____

iii verse 29 _____

iv verse 30 _____

13. **8. Then they Crucified Him**

Read Mark 15:26 and Luke 23:44 – 46. How long did it take for Jesus to die?

14. **9. Jesus was Buried by Joseph of Arimathea.**

Read Luke 23:50.

15. Do you know how many people attended the funeral of Jesus?
And who were they?

16. **10. On the Sunday Morning, the Tomb was Empty**

But now read Isaiah 53:10 – 11.

Message Guide & Questions

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 8 - How The Resurrection Meets Our Deepest Needs 1 Corinthians 15:12 - 23 & 53 - 55

1. As we speak of 'our deepest needs', let's begin by identifying some of our basic needs:
 - F _ _ _ _
 - C _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
 - W _ _ _ _
 - S _ _ _ _ _

2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:15 - 23 and list some of the 'negative statements' about what would be true if Christ was NOT risen from the dead.

3. Now read again and consider verse 20. What has happened here?

4. Now we will look at **4 Deep Needs** that have been met *BECAUSE* Christ has been raised from the dead.
 - # 1 The Deep Need to be Freed from Sin**
 - There are 2 aspects to this. First read and consider Romans 4:25.
The first aspect is: *The need for a change of relationship to our Sins.*
 - 5. The second aspect is: *The need for a change to our Status.*
Read and consider John 8:24 and Colossians 2:13.
 - 6. **# 2 The Need to Have Someone to Trust**
 - We all put our faith in something. Name some of them that you can think of.

7. But read and consider 1 Corinthians 15:25 – 27.
8. **# 3 The Need to know there is a Future Beyond Death**
Read and consider Hebrews 2:15.
9. What are the possibilities for us when life ends?

-
-
10. There could be some of you who are even now facing the prospect of death due to advancing age, or health issues. What should you do?
Read 2 Corinthians 4:17 – 18.
-
-

11. **# 4 The Need to be Sure of the Truth**

Read Matthew 16:21.

Final Thoughts

We often say that the death of Jesus takes away our sin
- and that is true
- but we need to understand
that by His death He paid the penalty for our sins,
and purchased our forgiveness and acquittal before Him.

But when God raised Jesus from the dead
God demonstrated His acceptance of this sacrifice,
and thereby declared us justified.

We are not only forgiven of our sins, but we are also justified.
We have been reconciled to God, and He is now our friend.

So, in the Resurrection, 4 of our deepest needs are met.

- 1. The need to deal with our sins.**
- 2. The need to have someone reliable to trust.**
- 3. The need to be sure of life beyond the grave.**
- 4. The need to know this is TRUE - *not just an opinion.***

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 1 - He Was A Root Out Of A Dry Ground Isaiah 53:1 - 3

1. For this series of messages we will be looking at 'the private life of Jesus', or as the title says, 'The Jesus You Never Noticed'.
2. These experiences help to mold our character; to make us who we are.
3. When Jesus became a 'true man' He did not become a 'super man'. He was not given an easy fast-track through life. He experienced all the same growing pains that we all have, and do, experience.
4. The growth of Jesus, before He was launched into public ministry, was a well-balanced growth.
5. The 4 areas where He would have grown are:

Intellectually	... in wisdom
Physically	... in stature
Spiritually	... in favour with God
Socially	... in favour with men
6. Jesus was not God pretending to be human. He was a **real** human. Wisdom and knowledge was not automatically downloaded to Him from heaven; He had to 'learn and appropriate' - He had to develop and grow.
7. These verses tantalizingly talk about 3 areas of the life of Jesus:
 - a. His Personal Environment
 - b. His Physical Appearance
 - c. His Social Interactions
8.
 - a. *Where was He born?*
In a stable; a very poor beginning
 - b. *What happened when He was still just a baby?*
His family were refugees running away from a tyrant King.
 - c. *What kind of place [town] did He grow up in?*
He grew up in an insignificant town
 - d. *What did the local people think of Him?*
They rejected Him.
Remember, as far as they were concerned He was an illegitimate child.
9. Perhaps we have been too influenced by artist's depictions as Jesus as being a tall, blue-eyed, handsome 'Alpha' male, but according to this scripture He was the opposite of that.
10. The qualities of Jesus were not about 'physical prowess; but rather, 'moral character'. His virtues were moral; not physical or material. He was characterized by His love, kindness, gentleness and tenderness.
11. 1. He was despised

2. He was rejected by men
3. He was a man of sorrows
4. One from whom men hide their faces. [embarrassed]
5. Despised [again]
6. They esteemed [valued] Him not

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed

Part 2 - This Is My Beloved Son

Luke3:21 - 23 a

1. As we look at the life of Jesus under the theme "The Jesus You Have Never Noticed", today we are going to look at His Baptism.
2. Jesus was 30 years old when he was 'introduced to the public' by His cousin John [the Baptist].
3. John the Baptist had been called to 'prepare the way for the Messiah' but he had no idea that it was his own cousin. Even the brothers and sisters of Jesus had no idea what the calling of Jesus was.
4. The mother of Jesus had known this at His birth but she kept it locked away in her heart.
5. This was one of only a very few times in scripture when the Trinity operated together in distinctive roles:

God the Son	was in the water
God the Father	spoke from heaven
God the Spirit	descended in the form of a dove
6. The symbol of 'baptism' is an outward physical ritual that represents an inward spiritual reality. Read and consider Romans 6:3 - 4.

Our Baptism identifies us with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; and Christ identifies with us. He doesn't sin, but **He enters into our sinful state.**

By entering into our status, it makes it possible for us to enter into His.

7. At this event the audible voice of God was heard from heaven saying, "You are My Son, You are Mine, I love You."

Psychologists tell us that every child needs to hear this from their father; that affirmation of our father's love and acceptance of us.

So why is this important? Because what is true of Christ is now true of us.

The baptism of Christ is a picture of our union with Christ, so we are brought into His [Christ's] relationship with His Father.

Now read and consider Galatians 3:26 - 27 and Romans 5:5.

8. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form, like a dove.
9. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, the Holy Spirit is as indispensable to Him as He [the Holy Spirit] is to us.

Remember: this is Jesus as a man. So He needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit to empower Him. If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit, how can we imagine that we can possibly live without the Holy Spirit fully engaged in our lives?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 3 - Under Attack By Satan Matthew 4:1 - 11

1. We have all faced, and do still face, temptation.
2. When Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days he was continually tempted, but this was not the only time he faced temptation, and these verses testify to that. Temptation is a common experience to all of us; and Jesus was not exempt from this battle.
3. Having been set apart by His Father at His Baptism, Jesus was given His first assignment - Battle.
4. It is important to be very clear in your understanding that God is NEVER the originator of temptation. It is true that sometimes God will lead us into situations where we become vulnerable [such as when God permitted Satan to attack Job] but God is not the author of the attack.
5. As per previous question.
6. The devil came to tempt Jesus AFTER He had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, but Jesus was also tempted DURING the period of fasting.

In other words, the devil attacked when Jesus was hungry, when Jesus was the most vulnerable. We need to guard those times when we are most physically, emotionally and psychologically vulnerable.
7. We don't want to actually name them here, but there comes to mind a couple of very famous former US presidents; one in recent history, and another a few generations before. And there comes to mind a well-known golfer.
8. The apple was:

Good for food	- Lust of the Flesh
Pleasing to the eyes	- Lust of the Eyes
Desirable for gaining wisdom	- Pride of Life
9. Jesus was tempted to give in to Strength
Jesus was tempted to do what was right - but at the wrong time.

Eve was tempted to give in to Weakness
Eve was tempted to do what was wrong - against a direct command from God

It is not always the wrong things that trip us into temptation.
Sometimes it can be the right things at the wrong time.
10. But how do you resist the devil?
11. "It is written" God has spoken by His Word, and this settles the issue.
12. a. You resist the devil - - by **Submitting to God**
b. You submit to God - - by **Obeying Him**

- c. You obey Him - by **Submitting to His Word**
- d. You submit to His Word - by **Knowing His Word**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 4 - Moving From Fullness To Power Luke 4:1 - 3a & 13 - 15

1. Jesus had been involved in what we call 'spiritual warfare'. He was not exempt from this, and neither are we. However, now Jesus returns to Galilee 'in the power of the Spirit'. Where did that power come from? It came from His successful resisting of the temptations that the devil threw at Him.

2. **Choice Option # 1**

Jesus could trust His Father, who had led Him into the desert, to meet His need for food before it became too late? Or

2. **Choice Option # 2**

Jesus could have manipulated the situation to meet His own needs by other means.

In every area that we may be tested we are faced with the same choices.

3. God will not always meet our material needs in the way in which we would like, so we will often manipulate a solution to our needs. Most out-of-control debt is incurred because of this.

Read and consider what the Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11:23.

Are we willing for the possibility that we might experience what Paul experienced?

4. We were created as emotional beings with the need to love and to be loved. We are created with strong desires for social integration and sexual intimacy. While these are normal desires, we must be aware that there are legitimate and illegitimate ways to fulfill these needs. So here is an area where we are vulnerable to temptation.

In the worst case we can seek sexual satisfaction outside of marriage.

But being impatient with God and marrying the wrong person is also a form of disobedience that can bring unpleasant consequences.

Be very careful that you do not put subtle pressure on unmarried people to marry.

5. Abraham failed his first test when the Lord had promised him a son. That failure brought about Ishmael from whose off-spring the terrible problems in the Middle East have flowed.

Fortunately Abraham passed this second test, but the consequences of the first failure are still with us today.

6. The devil invites Jesus to take on a position that the Father had not yet given Him. In itself, this was not wrong - but Jesus would have been obtaining the position illegitimately.

Ambitions to 'rule' and 'lead' are dangerous.

7. We need leaders, but only those leaders who understand that their true calling is to

serve. Serving is the highest calling that we can have.

The devil was offering Jesus a position of authority where He would not have learned the hard lessons of 'serving'.

8. Jesus needed to learn obedience. Obedience is not a gift; and just as Jesus needed to **learn obedience**, so do we. Then, and only then, is authority **given by God**.
9. The devil offered Jesus the opportunity to make a name for Himself. He was offered a quick reputation, but the Father was testing His [Jesus] attitude to having a reputation, and Jesus declined the devil's temptation.

If we try to create a reputation, we then have to live up to it; and once you try to live up to your reputation you will be living under the pressure of other people's opinions.

10. We should take our example from Jesus in that He 'made Himself of no reputation'. Instead He waited for His Father to establish His [Jesus] reputation.

**When Jesus humbled Himself - the Father exalted Him.
This should be our pattern too!**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 5 - The Uniqueness Of Christ: Listen To Him Luke 9:28 - 36

1. Usually Charles' messages are broken down into clearly defined 'points', but that is not the case with this message.
2. Judaism - revolves around Abraham & Moses
Christianity - revolves around Christ
Islam - revolves around Mohammed
3. I am sure this statement will have provoked a variety of reactions, but we cannot escape the fact that 'God' **IS** the same God of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
4. Note that Jesus did NOT say 'I am A way. and A truth and A life. SOME people may come to the Father through me.'

Jesus was making a very dogmatic statement that He, and only He, was the way, the truth and the life, and that there is **no other way into heaven** but through Him.

5. This is a hugely dogmatic statement which, if true, eliminates any alternative way by which we may come to know God. This is one aspect of the 'uniqueness of Christ'.

We should also be aware that this was a direct threat to the position and way of life of the religious rulers - as it still is today.

The religious leaders of the day had a vested interest in not accepting the claims of Christ to be the **ONLY** way into Heaven; and that vested interest still exists today.

Whenever any church, organization or individual puts their own interests above that of the stated will of God you will always end up with conflict.

6. This is another aspect of the 'uniqueness of Christ' in that His role is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets and that everything ever written in them will only make sense when they find their fulfillment in Him.

This is a direct affront to the intelligence of the Pharisees, as it threatened their lofty position in society.

7. In this verse, Jesus directly challenges the religious rules concerning their refusal to accept Him. Again, Jesus represented a personal threat to these men.
8. Remember the Transfiguration of Jesus where Peter, James and John saw Jesus with Moses and Elijah and God spoke!

Moses and Elijah are justifiably revered, but they only 'point' to Jesus.

When God actually spoke, He said [referring to Jesus] "This is my Son whom I have chosen" and then He added "**Listen to Him.**"

The claims that Jesus made about Himself are numerous, and should be enough to convince us, but the clincher [so-to-speak] should be that God Himself instructs us

to. **"LISTEN TO HIM"**.

9. Luke 9:18 - 20 Who do YOU think I am?
 John 8:42 God sent me.
 John 8:51 Keep His word and you will never see death.
 John 8:58 I existed even before Abraham was born.
10. We have only scratched the surface of the subject, 'the uniqueness of Christ', so we shall end this brief study by reading the words of Peter in 2 Peter 1:16 – 18.

2 Peter 1:16 - 18

We did not follow cleverly invented stories
 when we told you about the power
 and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

For He **received honor and glory from God** the Father
 when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying,
 "This is My Son, whom I love; with whom I am well pleased."

We ourselves heard His voice that came from heaven
 when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.

Jesus is totally and absolutely unique!

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 6 - The Dark Night Of His Soul Matthew 26:36 - 40

1. For Jesus, the Cross and Resurrection were the climax of His life, but behind every great public event lay private dealings of the heart.
2. The 'battle of the cross' that was fought and won in the Garden of Gethsemane.
3. The Oxford Dictionary describes 'sorrow' as 'mental distress caused by loss or disappointment'. Sorrow' is a 'draining emotion'.
Read and consider the following scriptures:
Psalm 31:9, Psalm 119:28, Jeremiah 8:18, Matthew 36:38.
4. God is not emotionally detached from the world or from people.
He is not so big that He does not feel sorrow or hurt.
5. Read and consider Genesis 6:5.
Evil in the heart of man created **pain** in the heart of God.
God is **not immune to pain**, and Jesus **endured emotional pain**.
6.

<u>Positive Emotions</u>	<u>Negative Emotions</u>
Love	Grief
Joy	Pain
Gladness	Sorrow
Pleasure	Sadness
7. Because of the agony that lay behind Him - He had just come from the Upper Room - and because of the agony that lay ahead of Him - His soon coming Crucifixion.
8. **Because His heart was troubled, ours don't need to be.**
Now read Isaiah 53:11.
9. The 'cup' was the shedding of His blood to establish the New Covenant, and for forgiveness of sins.
Jesus was able to offer THAT cup to His disciples in the Upper Room because He drank THIS cup in the Garden of Gethsemane.
The disciples drank the **cup of forgiveness**. Jesus drank the **cup of wrath**.
Read also, Psalm 116:13 & Isaiah 51:22.
10. In a sense, the Cross was an exchange of **Cups**.
Unless Jesus was willing to drink the **cup of the wrath of God**, we could never drink the **cup of salvation**.

Read and consider the following verses:
1 Peter 1:18 - 19; Revelation 5:6 & 9; Matthew 26:42.

Jesus drank the cup willingly, but not casually.

It was an act of obedience to His Father.

11. Jesus first asked that the cup [of God's wrath] be taken away; but in submission to the will of His Father, He prayed, then let me drink the cup.
12. **To live according to our highest wisdom would be for God to live like a fool.**
13. Jesus was not setting up His will in conflict with His Father's will. He always did those things that pleased His Father; but Jesus faces all the alternatives, all the sorrow and pain, and then prays the most sensible prayer anyone can ever pray.
"Not My will, but Thy will be done".
14. To have this mind, is to share in some serious things:
 We must - **Enter** into His **Sorrow**
 Experience Surrender
 Then we may **Enjoy** a life of **Sanity**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 7 - The Road To The Cross Luke 19:37 - 48

1. This study will be a little different than usual as we will be looking at 10 stages of the events leading up to the Crucifixion of Jesus.
2. They questioned the authority of Jesus.
Read also Matthew 26:3 - 4.
3. As a consequence of the betrayal we come to Luke 22:54 "Then seizing Him they led Him away and took Him to the house of the High Priest."
4. Jesus was questioned about two things: His Teaching and His Disciples.
One of the soldiers slapped Jesus across His face.
5. They were looking for **false evidence**.
6. **a. Jesus was charged with Terrorism** -
Destroying the Temple and rebuilding it. Of course, Jesus was not talking about the literal Temple which was the most Holy site in Judaism - He was talking about His own body.
b. Jesus was charged with Blasphemy - claiming to be the Son of God.
7. Pilate was not interested in charges of blasphemy or threats to the temple, but he was concerned about:
 - v.2a Subverting the nation.
 - v.2b Opposing payment of taxes to Caesar.
 - v.2c Claims to be King.

These were serious charges opposing the rule of Rome, and then.....

 - v.5 He was a rabble rouser.
8. **ENVY** was at the root of the charges against Jesus.
9. Herod did not take any of this seriously; it was just amusement as far as he was concerned. That is why they mocked Jesus, ridiculed Him, suggested Jesus perform a miracle for their entertainment, and then dressed Him in an elegant robe before sending Him back to Pilate.
10. Finding no guilt in Jesus, Pilate sought for a way to release Him.
Read Matthew 27:15.
Pilate even advocated the release of Jesus. Matthew 27:23
But to Pilate's surprise the crowd, having now become a mob, turned violently against Jesus. Luke 23:23 - 25
11. Pilate, in a cowardly, unjust and irresponsible act, washed his hands of Jesus.
12.
 - i Matthew 27:26 First Jesus was flogged.
 - ii verse 28 They stripped Him naked.
 - iii verse 29 He was mockingly forced to wear a crown of thorns.
 - iv verse 30 He was spat upon, and repeatedly struck on His head.

To complete the humiliation He was forced to carry His own cross; but He collapsed under the weight of it, and Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry it for Him.

13. It took Jesus 6 hours to die, and then John 19:33
14. Having been put to death as a criminal Jesus should have been buried in what was literally a garbage dump where the bodies of other criminals and animals were thrown. However, a wealthy man named Joseph of Arimathea allowed Jesus to be buried in a grave he had purchased for himself. This fulfilled the Old Testament prophesy in Isaiah 53:9. "He died as a criminal, but was buried as a rich man."
15. Only 4 people attended the funeral of Jesus.
 - Joseph of Arimathea
 - Nicodemus - member of the Sanhedrin [John 19:39]
 - Mary Magdaline [Mark 15:47]
 - Mary - mother of Jesus
16. In the historical setting, the cross may have satisfied the **unjust wrath** of the Sanhedrin which was motivated by envy, jealousy and ignorance; but in the eternal setting it also satisfied the **just wrath** of a Holy God.

Finally, read and consider Isaiah 54:4 – 5.

**This event transforms lives today.
Because of it we can be forgiven, reconciled to God, and receive Life.**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Jesus You Never Noticed Part 8 - How The Resurrection Meets Our Deepest Needs 1 Corinthians 15:12 - 23 & 53 - 55

1. Food, Clothing, Work and Sleep
2. Our preaching would be useless. . . nothing worthwhile to say.
Our faith would be futile. . . nothing worthwhile to trust.
We would still be in our sins. . . powerless.
We would be lost. . . without God and without hope.
We would be pitied more than all men
3. Having made a list of the possible negatives associated with 'if Christ had not been raised from the dead', Paul now reverses the negative statements into positive statements.
4. This is a basic need and longing of our hearts because, *if God holds our sins against us there is no hope of anything else from God.*

The foundation for every other blessing from God is 'forgiveness'.
Our controversy with God is that **we are sinners**; we stand **guilty**, and because of this our **relationship with Him is broken**.

Every aspect of our relationship with God begins with forgiveness, and the fact that God does not hold our sins against us.
5. Each one of us has 2 options; either to remain in the condition of being 'dead in our sins' and continue in the state of eternal separation from God, OR to come alive by receiving the life of God. Read verse 17.

Because Christ has been raised, now our faith is useful and fruitful.
6. Some things that we put our trust in are:
Ourselves, our health, the economy, career, friends, spouse.
But marriages can fail, people let us down, businesses can fail, as can the economy.
We can live in dependence upon these, but if any of them fail we can find ourselves in big trouble.
7. Because of the resurrection of Jesus there is someone we can trust absolutely.
His death defeated the last enemy, and every other enemy.
When Jesus Christ rose again from the dead
He defeated every other enemy that threatens to defeat us today.
8. We are not equipped to live until we are equipped to die, but the great haunting fear that lies behind so much of life, is death.
9. 1. That there is nothing. To die is the end.
This raises huge questions about the meaninglessness of it all.

2. We are reborn into the physical world through Reincarnation.
Such is the belief of Hindus and Buddhists etc.- that our conduct in this life

determines what we come back as maybe a cockroach?

3. We continue into a Spiritual World

But has anyone ever done that? Read and consider the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:15 – 19.

10. Christ has won the victory over death. Read also 1Corinthians 15:50 – 57.

11. Jesus told everyone that He would die and be raised, and it happened just as He said it would. We can trust His Word.

Our young people today are being taught there is no absolute truth, but Christ declared absolute Truth that can be trusted. He IS the Truth and that Truth can be trusted.