

16-A Teaching **Lecture Notes**

1. Go to Handout
2. GEN 2:15 **The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to WORK it and take care of it.** (NIV)
3. PHI 2:12 **Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who WORKS in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**
4. Greek words. ERG = unit of energy.
5. John 14:8-18
15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another HELPER (paracletos), that He may abide with you forever— 17 “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you orphans (helpless); I will come to you.
6. JOH 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the HELPER will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 “of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 “of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 “of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 “All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. 16 “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER.”
7. MAR 6:1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such MIGHTY WORKS are performed by His hands! 3 “Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” And they were offended at Him. 4 But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” 5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, TEACHING.
8. God WORKS through people yielded to Him, Satan WORKS through people yielded to him.
9. God’s gifts to mankind are always in ‘people’ packages.

10. Works have nothing to do with getting 'saved'. That is entirely by GRACE through FAITH. Go to HANDOUT on Salvation.

11. Then come BACK to front of WORKS handout.

12. Differentiate works of FLESH vs works of SPIRIT. GOOD works of flesh especially difficult to recognize.

13. Go to THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST handout

14. Go to TEACHING handout

15. Pay attention to BOXED scriptures

16. Where to Start? Listen to the Spirit. A moving vehicle is easier to steer.

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1. A new commandment give I unto you, that you love one another.

2. Good Works are rewarded at the Bema Seat of Christ

3. We are not saved BY good works, but are saved FOR good works. The good works are proof of our faith in Jesus and of the Father working IN us.

4. Make disciples of all nations

5. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do the works

6. They are not OUR works, but HIS works through us!

7. We participate with God in the salvation of ourselves and others.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4.18,19 (NIV)

Jesus' anointing sent Him to the poor, the prisoner, the blind and the oppressed. Our agenda is the same as His. We do not do Jesus' works in our own strength and wisdom, but through the empowerment and leading of the Holy Spirit.

We do not do Jesus' works through worldly institutions, values nor methods. We are called and commissioned to do Jesus works totally within the context of the Kingdom of God and the Gospel.

To reduce Jesus' works into political programs or social programs, apart from Him as the Center of our outreach to the poor and oppressed, is to defame Him.

We are called to "hands on" application of this commission, first in our own community. To simply participate in Jesus' works by "proxy" (giving finances for someone else to do these works) is not fulfillment of His call and commission to each disciple. On the other hand, to simply be focused upon doing Jesus works locally, without supporting needs in other parts of the world, is incomplete and denies God's missionary plan.

Ways to do Jesus' works:

The Work of Jesus.

Jesus claimed and exercised divine activity:

He forgave sin (Mark 2:10).

He raised the dead (Luke 7:12-15).

He controls nature (Matthew 8:26).

He judges the secret motive of human beings (Matthew 7:22-23); and

He receives divine recognition from human beings (John 20:28-29).

Note: By making such claims, Jesus was either telling the truth, a liar, or demented. They are bold comments about his activity and identity.

The most important work or activity of Jesus in the New Testament has to do with his death on the cross and his resurrection. Notice how important this was to Paul (I Corinthians 1:22-23; 2:2; Romans 3:23-26; 4:24-25; and 10:9).

The importance of the death of Jesus. The basic problem with humanity is the problem of sin (selfishness, rebellion against the will of God, wanting our own way) (Romans 3:10-23) which separates us from God and robs us of fellowship with God and experiencing his blessing in our lives (Romans 6:23). Humanity has sinned and deserves the judgement of God, but Jesus died for our sins (Romans 5:8; 6:23).

The importance of the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus is important because without it, there is no hope for life beyond the grave for anyone (I Corinthians 15:12-19; see also Philippians 3:21). Who Jesus was, namely, the Lord and Son of God was seen in his resurrection (Romans 1:3-4).

His present ministry of intercession (Romans 8:34 [Notice that the Holy Spirit also intercedes for us in Romans 8:26-27] and Hebrews 7:25).

Teaching ministry. Jesus' teaching ministry that is preserved in the Gospels and in a few places in the rest of the New Testament clarifies to us both who God is and what the will of God is. Notice for example, that he shows us that God is a loving and forgiving God in Luke 15:11-32, but also that he requires of his followers that they also be forgiving (Matthew 18:23-35). He teaches us that God will hold us accountable for our activities (Luke 12:13-21), namely, that there is a day of accountability before God.

Jesus is also mentioned in the New Testament as creator (Colossians 1:15) and judge (I Corinthians 4:4-5).

He is the Lord of the church (Philippians 2:5-11) and acts as the husband to his bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:23-26). Jesus is God's agent in creation (Colossians 1:15) and forgives sinners (Mark 2:5-12).

The Works of Jesus

John 6:28, "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?"

The above quotation from the King James Version of the Bible may seem unclear as to what exactly is being asked of Jesus. The New Century Version translates the above as saying, "The people asked Jesus, 'What are the things God wants us to do?'" ; the New Living Translation renders the same verse as, "They replied, 'What does God want us to do?'" This is a question that many Christians ask, yet find the answer that came from Jesus unacceptable, as did those who were present in this setting.

Jesus answered them and said, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (v. 29). The NLT says, "This is what God wants you to do: Believe in the one he has sent." Although this is not all that God requires of us, many fail to realize that the foundation of all valid good works rests on one's faith in the Person and redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11). Good works should never be a method to relieve a guilty conscience, but an expression of genuine faith. The issue of justification or condemnation is settled by one's belief, not one's behavior.

Indeed, it could have been more acceptable to the crowd if Jesus had said for them to do certain kinds of charity or strenuous religious rituals. Rather, Jesus told them the foundation of working for God hinges on faith. The same ones who posed the original question, seemingly in a humble manner, now put forth this indignant request, "They said therefore unto him, What sign showest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?" (John 6:30). God has called us to live in the realm of the spirit, and not to remain in the fleshly realm. Even if we perform all kinds of charitable deeds, if they were produced out of the flesh, they are nothing but "dead works" (Heb. 6:1) that demands repentance rather than to be rewarded. As Christians, we should by now realize that only good works produced by faith are acceptable to God (Heb. 11:6). I have extracted several lessons from John 6:28, of which we should regularly remind ourselves:

1. Emphasize faith, not works.

The Bible says that "the just shall live by faith" and that the righteousness that we have received from God is "revealed from faith to faith" (Romans 1:17). All Christian activities, no matter how valid or noble, must originate and be based on our faith in Jesus Christ.

Many who have been Christians for a period of time gradually slip into a dependence on the good works that they have accumulated in order to maintain their self-esteem, their sense of righteousness, or the idea that their relationship with God remains intact.

This is a dangerous attitude to have. As the Apostle Paul questioned the Christians at Galatia, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3). Indeed, we were not saved by the works of human effort and one can be certain that it is impossible to maintain one's status in Christ through fleshly endeavors. Can human achievements match the measureless grace of God? I think not.

2. We have faith in a Person, not a concept, not a system, not a creed or doctrine.

Jesus Christ is a Person. He does not represent a concept, a system, a doctrine, or an ideal. If He represents anything, He represents the Almighty God, whom we were made qualified to address as "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15) when we accepted the work of Jesus Christ on the cross personally. The Almighty God is Himself a Person, not a concept.

Many people's image of Jesus is nothing more than a construction of their own imagination - a representation of what they think Christianity should be like. However, if they see Jesus as a Person (which He is), then the facts about Jesus should be apparent. Among other things, a person consists of their thoughts, speech, and actions - the

significant parts of these aspects of Jesus Christ are recorded in the Gospels, the Old Testament prophecies, and the New Testament epistles. There needs to be no speculation as to what Jesus stands for or believes. Unless one refuses to submit to Jesus, there is no need to change Him into a religious system. We have faith in a Person called Jesus the Son of God, not a set of ideas, rules, and regulations.

Many think of their spiritual lives in terms of their churches, doctrine, and social circles. Although accurate doctrines are important, when discussed void of a relationship with Jesus Christ, amounts to nothing but materials for intellectual stimulation.

Having said that, be reminded that doctrine is extremely important. Many today prefer to compromise doctrine to maintain unity, but certain doctrines simply cannot be compromised if the resulting set of beliefs were to retain the name of Christianity. If the doctrines about Christ are inaccurate, the beliefs about Christ will be inaccurate - and faith founded upon false beliefs, needless to say, is unacceptable.

3. There is no substitute for faith

People attempt to replace faith with other things when they fail to have the kind of faith that the Bible requires. The Bible states that we are to have the kind of faith that does not depend on sight, or more broadly, does not depend on the physical senses. This is not because we are required to have "blind faith". True faith is not "blind"; yet it does not see (or need to see). True faith is not forcing oneself to believe something known to be false as true - that would be "blind" faith or plain foolishness. The reason that faith must depart from dependence on the senses is because it is of the spirit, and spiritual things work by beliefs.

Physical operations require evidence and information that relates to the physical senses. Somehow, when many individuals attempt to function in the spirit, they try to bring the same mode of operation to this higher dimension. Then, upon their failure, they will question the validity of a certain doctrine or the reality of the spiritual world altogether.

For example, some have difficulty understanding the Bible's teachings on having faith before the physical manifestation. In the area of healing, they refuse to believe that they are healed before their body shows signs of recovery. But remember that the spiritual world functions by belief - if they refuse to believe before the healing, then what is it that will cause their recovery? If it takes money to buy a certain product (that is how a store functions), and you refuse to pay until the product is given to you, then what is it that will cause the ownership of the product to be transferred to you? In the natural world, you can debate this example by pointing to the credit system; yet, there is none of that in the spirit world. If a person doubts, "let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (James 1:7).

Instead of seeking to replace faith with works, knowledge, excuses, and other man-made devices of rebellion, let us yield to the laws of the Spirit of God and live by faith (Heb. 11:6; Heb. 3:12; Romans 14:23).

4. Pure good works follow a heart made holy by faith

Although any charitable deeds produced out of fleshly efforts are unacceptable to God (Isaiah 64:6), good works that come forth as a natural expression of faith are acceptable.

First of all, understand that faith purifies one's heart. Jesus said to Paul in Acts 26:18, that Christians are "sanctified by faith that is in me (Jesus)." In other words, having faith or putting your trust in Jesus Christ cleanses your inner man and causes subsequent good works that come forth from this reborn spirit to be meaningful. Good works produced any other way, no matter how commendable on a human level, are rejected by God.

We have emphasized that good works produced by human efforts are unacceptable; yet, let us also remind ourselves that genuine faith will produce good works. Faith that does not result in good works is either false, incomplete, or misguided. James teaches that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26; also see Eph. 2:10).

5. Faith involves the heart

When you work for someone (such as an employer of within a certain corporation), you temporarily give him your physical and mental energy. But when you trust someone, you give him your heart. God wants you to trust Him and have faith in the Person whom He has sent, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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