

Lesson 9 Review

A. Review of Lesson – Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 9. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.

Do you remember the story of when God called the missionary and his family to carry their cross in the area of finances? According to Jesus, those who carry their cross now will receive great rewards in the kingdom of God when Jesus returns. In this story, God used the promise of Jesus' coming kingdom to motivate and encourage this family not to give up during this time of testing.

Paul states that the gospel as now understood "according to the mystery" of Christ is God's way of establishing the saints in maturity and motivating them to obey Him. If our mode of foundation-building is to be like what we see in the New Testament, it must also have the gospel according to the mystery of Christ as the backbone of the discipleship process. In Paul's words, a biblical mystery is a truth formerly hidden but now disclosed to the world by the command of God.

The first aspect of the mystery of Christ is that God established the New Covenant through the blood of a *crucified* Messiah. In faithfulness to his covenant promises, the God of Israel had resurrected and thereby judicially vindicated a crucified, condemned man as his appointed King and Messiah. In the New Testament, the mystery of *Christ crucified* forms the foundation of apostolic teaching, doctrine, and ministry. Because Jesus, the precious cornerstone, attained to the resurrection of the righteous through suffering, so his disciples too must enter into their inheritance of resurrection at Jesus' Second Coming through tests and trials of various kinds. According to the apostles' teaching, the cross of Jesus and the reward of resurrection that he received after the cross should motivate us to live lives of obedience to God. The truth of Messiah crucified must form the backbone of a discipleship foundation if it is to be of New Testament quality. *Christ crucified* is the first aspect of the mystery of Christ.

Another part of the mystery of Christ was that the Messiah's mission was to be executed through *two comings*, instead of just one, as most Jews expected. Luke 24 highlights this aspect of the mystery well. Before entering into the glory of his kingdom on the earth through military conquest, the Messiah had to first come as an atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

Another part of the mystery of Christ relates to the timing of Jesus' resurrection and our resurrection. Jesus' resurrection was God's "firstfruits" guarantee that he would reap the fullness of the resurrection harvest at the end of the age. God wants Jesus' resurrection to motivate us to follow Jesus' example so that they too would receive the reward of resurrection that Jesus received. If the saints die to self and perseverance through suffering, they too will share in the same reward of resurrected life at Jesus' Second Coming.

Another part of the mystery of Christ relates to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out as a seal, firstfruits, and deposit. This deposit guarantees our future bodily resurrection at Jesus' Second Coming if we stand firm to the end. At the Second Coming, the Spirit will be poured out in fullness, and the saints with the deposit of the Spirit now will be raised from the dead. Until Jesus comes back, the Spirit gives us power and grace to obey

God in the way God desires. God wants obedience from the heart, and only the Holy Spirit can help us obey God from the heart. We need to always ask God for more and more grace in the Holy Spirit.

B. Review of Key Truths – Review and repeat the following truths until memorized.

1. *In this age before Jesus returns, we are called to carry our cross as Jesus carried His cross.*
2. *If we carry our cross in this age, when Jesus returns we will be raised from the dead like He was raised from the dead.*
3. *If we die to ourselves in this age, we will be rewarded in the age to come.*
4. *Jesus came the first time to suffer for the forgiveness of our sins before entering His glory.*
5. *Jesus will come the second time to save his people and punish the wicked.*
6. *Jesus was raised as the firstfruits of the resurrection, and we will be raised as the harvest of the resurrection.*
7. *We have been given the Spirit a firstfruits and deposit guaranteeing our inheritance at Jesus' Second Coming.*
8. *To enter the kingdom of God, we must not deny Jesus when we are persecuted just as Jesus did not deny His Father when He was persecuted.*

Lesson 10 Review

A. Review of Lesson – Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 10. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.

Another part of the mystery of Christ is God's plan for the Jewish people or the nation of Israel. In Jesus God revealed his plan to administer the New Covenant to the Jewish people in two parts or phases over time: first, to a small believing remnant, and then at a later time in history to the entire nation just preceding and following Messiah's return.

Paul tells us in Romans 11:25 that Israel has experienced a "hardening in part" and that that the nation's full salvation will be realized only when "the full number" or the "fullness" "of the Gentiles has come in." Israel's national salvation therefore awaits a great harvest from among the Gentile nations. However, not just any kind of harvest will do. Paul also says that "salvation has come to the Gentiles to provoke Israel to jealousy." In other words, God's plan is to take the New Covenant blessings that rightfully belong to the Jewish people and offer them to the Gentiles. Then, he will use those believing Gentiles as a goad to make the Jewish people desire what the Gentiles have received and to open their eyes to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah. Why is this significant? Because Paul tells us that "life from the dead," or the resurrection of the righteous, occurs at the Messiah's second coming. The repentance of "all Israel" must happen before Jesus returns. Before "all Israel" is saved, the fullness of the Gentile harvest among the nations must come in. However, this must be a harvest of high quality. This harvest must walk a quality of witness and sacrificial love sufficient to provoke Israel to repentance. Ultimately, the

earth's redemption is tied to Israel's salvation. The harvest that comes in must have understanding of God's continuing plan for the Jewish people.

This part of the mystery of Christ forces us to ask: Have we as the Body of Christ become so filled with the self-sacrificial love of the crucified Messiah that the people of Israel are compelled to accept Jesus as their Messiah? When Jews look at Gentile faces, do they see the love and covenant faithfulness of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? Is the gospel we preach a gospel that they will recognize as the gospel of their forefathers? The prophets in the Old Testament say that the Jewish people are going to face a very hard time of persecution in the last days. Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies, and many will be taken captive from Israel. Many in Israel will be scattered again throughout the nations. The anti-Christ is going to try to kill Jews all over the earth during the last 3.5 years before Jesus comes back. God will require His church from all nations to help the Jews in their time of need. Helping Jews will bring us persecution at that time, but God will still require us to lay our lives down for them in their time of need. We will need to hide Jews who are running for their lives. We will need to feed them and take care of them. We will need to love them when they have nothing to give us in return. Some followers of Jesus will be martyred while helping Jews who are being persecuted.

When we help the Jewish people in their time of need, they will ask us why we are helping them even though this is bringing persecution to us. We will tell them that we are helping them because of what their Jewish Messiah did for us. He laid down his life for us when we did not deserve it. So we are laying down our lives for them when they have nothing to give us. Through us, God will show the love of the cross to the Jewish people once again. When they see this love, many Jews will turn to Jesus in faith. God wants to provoke Israel to jealousy for Jesus through the church in the last days. This is our calling, and Jesus will hold us accountable on this issue when he returns.

Another part of the mystery of Christ is that Gentile believers are also fellow citizens with believing Jews and members of God's household. Through the gospel of Jesus the Messiah, the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Believing Gentiles have been fully grafted into Israel's covenantal promises by faith in Jesus as Lord. They are thus destined, as part of one Body along with believing Jews, to inherit the resurrection of the righteous and the Messiah's kingdom. The Father is extremely zealous to give his Son a pure Bride from all nations. Through this Bride, God will show Satan and his demons that the way of humility, voluntary obedience, and love is always victorious in the end.

Another part of the mystery of Christ is that God humbled Himself and became a man – Jesus, the servant who washed the feet of His disciples. Jesus is a true servant. God was very committed to redeeming His creation. He loved us so much that He was willing to leave the glories of his throne, become a man, allow himself to be unjustly executed on the cross. This shows that God is very humble and patient. God wants us to be like Him. As God humbled himself to become a man, so we too are commanded to follow God's own example in our attitudes and relationships.

B. Review of Key Principle – Review and repeat the following principle until memorized.

- 1. Jesus is fully God and fully man with all authority over heaven and earth.*

2. *If we humble ourselves as servants now as Jesus humbled himself, we will be rewarded with authority as kings when Jesus returns.*
3. *Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the fullness of the Gentile harvest comes in.*
4. *Through the gospel, God the Father is calling forth a Bride for His Son from all nations.*
5. *When the fullness of the Gentile harvest has come in, all Israel will be saved.*
6. *God's plan is to use Gentile believers to make Jews jealous for their Jewish Messiah.*
7. *God wants us to show the Jewish people love of the cross by helping them through persecution in the last days.*
8. *When Israel accepts the gospel, Jesus will return and raise His Bride from the dead to rule with Him in His kingdom.*
9. *We must share the gospel boldly with both Jews and Gentiles from all nations until Jesus returns.*

Lesson 11 Review

A. Review of Universal Disciple – *Do you remember Universal Disciple? Right now, break up into groups and teach them the Universal Disciple pattern. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the core points of Universal Disciple. Use the training cycle of Model, Assist, Watch, and Leave.*

Lesson 12 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 12. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

Do you remember the story of when Muhammad went to the missionary feeling great urgency to share the gospel? In this lesson, we talked about the role values play in laying a solid foundation. When Paul left an area, he could turn a movement loose with confidence, because he knew that the foundation he had imparted to the first group was strong. His confidence was that in his absence the Holy Spirit himself would lead new “vehicles” over the bridges he had built.

The first value is *obedience*. When we pass on the *Universal Disciple* pattern to new disciples, we must not only pass on the information of the pattern. We must also pass on the value of wholehearted obedience to the truths of the pattern. Obedience is the key that unlocks the door of *Universal Disciple* so that disciples may go on to actually progress in maturity. It is the value that unlocks transformation.

The second value is *respect for the Bible's authority*. When the Holy Spirit is poured out on a group of new disciples, they will begin to experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Respect for Bible's authority is the value that will keep disciples and churches on orthodox footing as the gifts begin to increase in a movement. If the gifts and the Word work together side-by-side like two oxen tied to a plow, then the movement under the Spirit's leadership will remain strong as it grows.

The third value is *hunger for the Word of God*. This is the value that opens the door of understanding the Scriptures. God gives us understanding of the Bible on the basis of spiritual hunger, not on the basis of a superior intellect. Jesus' words are now recorded in Scripture. Jesus says that if we consider and listen to His words carefully and with hunger, then He will respond

by giving us a large measure of understanding. We need to always ask the Holy Spirit to give us a deeper hunger for the Word of God.

The fourth value is *constant prayer*. A life of prayer is essential for Jesus' disciples to become like Him. Jesus says that the only way we can bear much fruit is to abide in Him in intimate friendship and fellowship. The primary way we fellowship with Jesus is through constant prayer. God loves to hear our voices, and He loves to speak back to us. God has much grace to give to us. Grace is the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Only by the Holy Spirit's grace are we able to love and obey God the way He desires. We must constantly depend on the Holy Spirit in prayer. We must constantly call on the name of the Lord to transform us into the image of Jesus.

The fifth value is *holiness*. Some people believe that formal theological education is the solution to heresy and false teaching in the church. However, this simply is not true. Heresy and false teaching are rooted in deceit and pride in the human heart, not primarily in a lack of education. The primary cause of heresy is not a lack of education, but rather *the corruption and perverseness of the human heart*. No matter how much education someone has, a heart of sin left unattended is prone to deception, false ideas, and bad thinking. The solution to heresy is to drill into new disciples and leaders a high value for *holiness and purity*. A value for holiness and purity – along with the other values discussed in this lesson – is a movement's true safeguard against heresy.

The sixth value is *freely giving away what we have freely received*. When this value is drilled into new disciples from the beginning of their conversion experience, it helps to ensure the transfer of information and training from person to person and church to church as a movement unfolds. This value will also motivate sacrificial giving for the advance of the gospel. Therefore, whenever we meet with new disciples, we must stress to them that once they leave our presence, it is now their responsibility before God to pass on what they have freely received from us to other disciples.

The seventh value is *apostolic urgency* in light of the nearness of Jesus' return. Paul teaches us that *Jesus' return is near, but certain unfulfilled signs must occur before He returns*. Before Jesus comes back, the rebellion must occur and the man of lawlessness will be revealed. We can know for certain that Jesus will not come back until after these signs have occurred. In Matthew 24, we learn from Jesus that the man of lawlessness is revealed when something called the "abomination of desolation" is erected in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. This means that we can expect the Jewish temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem sometime in the future. We also learn from Daniel and Revelation that Jesus will return 3.5 years following the abomination of desolation and the revealing of the man of lawlessness. When we see the abomination of desolation go up in the temple in Jerusalem, we will know that we have 3.5 years until Jesus returns to restore all things! During that 3.5 years, the Jewish people and followers of Jesus will be severely persecuted. This will be the worst persecution the Body of Christ has ever faced in history. There will be many martyrs all over the world. But Jesus will rescue us and resurrect us from the dead at the end of these last 3.5 years. Matthew 24 tells us that leading up to these last 3.5 years in the last days, there will be many wars, earthquakes, and famines throughout the world. As these increase, we need to always have a watchful and prayerful heart so that when the man of lawlessness is revealed, we are not surprised but are prepared in our hearts for this time of great testing.

Because we are living in the last days, it is very important for new disciples to have understanding of Paul's teaching on the signs that precede the Second Coming of Jesus. We must

watch for the signs carefully, pray fervently, live obediently, and share the gospel boldly. We must have great urgency in our hearts, and we must train new disciples to have this same urgency. We need to train new disciples to be ready for the persecution that will come following the abomination of desolation.

B. Review of Key Values – *Review and repeat the following values until memorized. These are the values that must be stressed to new disciples over and over again. It is very important that you learn them by heart.*

1. *Obedience to Jesus in all things*
2. *Respect for the authority of Scripture*
3. *Hunger for the Word of God*
4. *Abiding in Jesus through Prayer*
5. *Holiness*
6. *Freely Giving*
7. *Urgency*

Lesson 13 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 13. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

Do you remember the story of how the Holy Spirit led Muhammad and the others to be baptized? The Spirit's leadership is much superior to our small understanding. The Holy Spirit's solutions are much better than our solutions.

The Holy Spirit is very good at making disciples of Jesus. In many of our discipleship strategies today, we talk about the Spirit's leadership, but then end up teaching people to have confidence in our own leadership and ministry. When we do this, we end up taking the Holy Spirit's place in the lives of new believers.

One key truth of New Testament movements is that the Holy Spirit serves as the primary agent of discipleship and personal transformation, *not* the missionary, evangelist, pastor, or church planter. As God's partners in mission, we do play a role in discipleship, of course. However, our primary role is to do everything we can to ensure that new disciples get vitally connected to Jesus himself through the Holy Spirit. If this connection is established, then if we are killed or kicked out, the disciples we leave behind will continue to receive the same quality of leadership and instruction they had been receiving from Jesus all along. Unlike God's human ambassadors, the Holy Spirit can never be locked up, killed, or imprisoned. In our absence he will always be right there to see a new flock through its trials. Therefore, *the Spirit himself* is the solution to the disruption he causes when he backs up the gospel with power.

In John 10, Jesus says that he is the Good Shepherd. He says that He goes ahead of His sheep and that His sheep follow him because they know his voice. The way Jesus leads the people of God is through his voice. One of our primary roles as the Holy Spirit's partners in the discipleship process is to train new disciples how to hear Jesus' voice through the Holy Spirit. If

brand-new disciples learn to hear the Spirit's voice effectively for themselves, then that same Spirit will continue to guide them just as effectively in our absence as He does while we are physically present with them.

B. Review of Key Principles – Review and repeat the following principles until memorized.

- 1. We must give new disciples a high vision of the Holy Spirit's leadership.*
- 2. The Holy Spirit, not the missionary, is the primary leader in the lives of new disciples.*
- 3. Jesus leads His sheep through His voice.*

Lesson 14 Review

A. Review of Lesson – Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 14. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.

Do you remember the story of Muhammad's commissioning encounter with Jesus? Do you remember what Jesus promised Muhammad in that encounter? Jesus is a faithful provider and a wonderful leader. He leads His sheep very well. As we continue to serve Him and obey His voice, He will provide for our needs. Because of fear or worry, it is easy for us to start trusting in man instead of God for our provision. However, God is the only true Provider. We need to train new disciples to trust in the Lord, and not in us or any other human being, as their source of financial provision.

We must train new disciples coming out of Islam to depend on God for their provision. In the Muslim world, there are many sad examples of new disciples who came to depend on foreign missionaries for their financial provision, instead of trusting in the Holy Spirit. When those missionaries had to leave, many of these disciples turned back to Islam because they were afraid and worried about their financial situation. We must teach new disciples to trust in God, and not a foreign missionary, to meet their financial needs. God will always be with them, and He is their only source of provision.

At the end of this age before Jesus returns, during the last 3.5 years, the anti-Christ or the man of lawlessness will force the world to take a special mark on their forehead or hand. People will not be able to buy or trade without this mark. The Bible says that those who take this mark will be thrown into the Lake of Fire after Jesus returns. This will be a very difficult time of testing for Jesus' disciples throughout the earth. Will we trust God to provide for us outside of the anti-Christ system? Or will we yield to the pressure to take the mark because of fear and worry about our food?

God will not abandon His people during this time. He is going to provide for His people in miraculous ways outside of the anti-Christ system. God sent the manna to the Israelites in the wilderness. He sent food to Elijah through the ravens. Jesus multiplied the fish and the loaves for 5,000 and the 4,000. We must learn to trust Him now for our needs. This will make us strong for the coming time of testing. We must also train new disciples to trust in God for their provision. We want them to be strong in trusting God for their provision so that they do not take the mark during the last 3.5 years. If they take that mark, they will go to the Lake of Fire.

New disciples must be reminded over and over that the Holy Spirit, not us, is their primary leader, counselor, and teacher. If they become overly dependent on us spiritually, then their growth and development will stagnate substantially in our absence.

Shadow-mentoring is one way that a foreign missionary can die to self so that God's purposes among a different people group and culture can be multiplied. When a foreign missionary chooses to stay behind the scenes, this forces new disciples from the local culture to grow in leadership. It also helps new disciples trust the Holy Spirit and not a foreigner for their provision.

B. Review of Key Principle – Review and repeat the following principles until memorized.

1. *We must train new disciples to trust not in man but in God for their financial provision.*
2. *We must train new disciples to look primarily to the Bible and the Holy Spirit for answers and solutions to their problems.*
3. *Shadow-mentoring helps local leaders and disciples to grow and trust in the Holy Spirit instead of a foreign missionary.*

Lesson 15 Review

A. Review of Lesson – Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 15. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.

Do you remember the story of when Ali was stoned for boldly sharing the gospel in his village? When Ali heard the gospel and encountered the power of the Holy Spirit, he went back to his village and shared the gospel boldly even though he knew it would bring persecution. Even though Ali was just a brand new believer, the Holy Spirit enabled him to share the gospel in his village boldly in the face of persecution. Ali was not able to do this in his own strength. But the Holy Spirit gave them the strength he needed to share the gospel boldly despite opposition.

When we lead people to Jesus, we need to give them a vision for sharing the gospel boldly. Once a church planting movement is birthed, a vision for a bold witness will cause the gospel to expand even in the face of opposition. This vision should be passed on from disciple to disciple as a movement grows.

One of the reasons the gospel spread so rapidly in the first century is that it traveled along the lines of pre-existing relationships, often within the same household. In Acts, we see the following pattern a number of times: when a credible member of a household or a community accepts the gospel, many others within that person's sphere of influence soon follow suit. When the gospel penetrates a web of relationships and already-established trust, it is able to travel quickly. A movement can quickly become explosive as each person is faithful to share the gospel with the people in his/her network of relationships. One person witnesses to the twenty people in his/her network; eight of them get saved. Those eight, in turn, share with the twenty people in their network. Within weeks and months a small number of disciples can quickly turn into hundreds and even thousands. Ultimately, this kind of evangelism gospel will touch more people at faster rates than a stadium evangelist or revivalist ever could.

B. Review of Key Principle – Review and repeat the following principle until memorized.

1. *We must pass on to new disciples a vision for sharing the gospel boldly despite opposition.*
2. *We must encourage people to share the gospel within their network of friends, family, and co-workers.*
3. *Baptism can seal the vision for a bold witness in the hearts of new disciples.*

Lesson 16 Review

A. Review of Lesson – *Listen carefully as we briefly review Lesson 16. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the things you learned in that lesson.*

Do you remember the story of how the missionary gave Muhammad a vision for his Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and ends of the earth? Do you remember the story of how the missionary taught Muhammad about simple church multiplication? Jesus told the apostles that when the Holy Spirit came on them, they would be Jesus' witnesses. When Jesus told this to the apostles, they were living in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the place closest to them. Judea was outside of Jerusalem. Samaria was outside of Judea. And the ends of the earth were outside of Israel. Jesus wanted His disciples to be His witnesses in the places close by, and in the places far away. All people need to hear the good news of Jesus before it is too late. This includes our closest neighbors and those living in far away nations.

When God sent Ananias to Paul, He used Ananias to help Paul see his place in God's strategy to reach the nations with the gospel. One of the most powerful things we can do to see the gospel advance throughout cities, regions, and nations, is to simply help new disciples see their own stories as the continuation of the storyline of Acts.

B. Review of Key Principle – *Review and repeat the following principle until memorized.*

1. *We need to give new disciples a vision for the Great Commission and the gospel moving from their local area to the ends of the earth.*
2. *We need to help new disciples see their place in God's redemptive story.*
3. *We need to help local leaders understand the strategic value of simple church multiplication.*