



BIBLE
EXPOSITOR
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ILLUMINATOR

Spring Quarter
March | April | May 2024

Large-Print Edition

Bible Expositor and Illuminator

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SPRING QUARTER

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LOOKING AHEAD

This quarter will focus on passages that reveal Jesus' identity as God the Son. We will see that people responded in one of two ways to His claims to deity: faith or rejection. Likewise, we must take Jesus' claims seriously.

Our first unit confirms Jesus' deity by His power over death. In lesson 1, Jesus claims that anyone who abides in His word will never taste death, because He is none other than the self-existent "I AM."

In lesson 2, Jesus raises Jairus's daughter from the dead. Though many scoff at His words of assurance to this distraught father, Jairus maintains faith and thus witnesses the power of the Son of God. We next see Jesus raising His friend Lazarus from the dead (lesson 3), leading many to believe in Him but others to seek His death.

Lessons 4 and 5 focus on Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. His resurrection confirms the authority over death that He promised to the thief on the cross: "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Our second unit confirms Jesus' deity by His miraculous works. His first miracle (lesson 6) identifies the purpose of all His miracles: to reveal His glory as God's Son and to bring about faith in Him.

In lesson 7, Jesus casts a demon out of a boy, causing the demon to cry out in anguish. This highlights the spiritual warfare that surrounded Jesus' ministry. That warfare frequently surfaced in the scribes' and Pharisees' cold rejection of Jesus, as seen in lesson 8, when they fail to recognize Him as Lord of the Sabbath.

In lesson 9, Jesus' disciples worship Him as the Son of God after seeing His power over nature. In lesson 10, He forgives the sins of a paralytic, causing the scribes to accuse Him of blasphemy. His healing of the paralytic confirms His divine authority to forgive sins.

In our final unit, Jesus' deity is confirmed by His exaltation in heaven. Even the angels worship Him (lesson 11), and lesson 12 shows that all living things will one day bow before Him. In lesson 13, we have the promise that He is coming back soon to set all things right.

Do you believe that Jesus is not only a good teacher, but also the Lord of the universe? When He returns, will He find faith on the earth? May this study encourage you to submit your whole life to Him, for He is worthy of nothing less.

—*Matthew Robinson.*

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Jesus, Our Great God

GLENN WEAVER

How do we identify a great man in our culture? Some great men wear fine clothes and fill prestigious office positions. Other great men gather large crowds of people and give moving speeches. And others hit home runs, win races, or lead their teams to victory. In earlier times some kings even claimed to be gods, but they died like everyone else.

Jesus is the greatest man who ever lived. He demonstrated His greatness in ways that only He could. He claimed to be God, but He did not simply make the claim; He revealed the truth of His claim in multiple ways.

In John 8:31-59, Jesus spoke to a crowd about His identity. He claimed that God was His Father, that God sent Him, and that He was an eyewitness to His Father's heavenly works. He also asserted that He existed before Abraham (vs. 58). Jesus even called Himself "I am," appropriating for Himself the divine Name (cf. Ex. 3:14)! The crowd's response to these claims was to pick up stones to kill Him for blasphemy.

Physicians are great people who heal the sick, but Jesus' greatness goes beyond the abilities of any doctor. Luke 8:40-56 records two miracles of healing that support Jesus' claim to deity. Jairus's daughter was dying. Her father begged Jesus to come to his house and heal her. When Jesus arrived, the girl had already died, but this was no obstacle for Him. He took her by the hand and raised her from the dead.

On His way to Jairus's house, Jesus was delayed by a sick woman. Physicians had been unable to heal her despite their repeated attempts (Luke 8:43). Still, she had faith that Jesus

could heal her. She touched the edge of His garment, and she was healed!

Jesus claimed authority to forgive sin. Some men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus for healing (Mark 2:1-12). Jesus declared the man's sins forgiven, prompting religious teachers to object on the basis that only God could forgive sin. Then, to substantiate His authority to forgive sin, Jesus dramatically healed the paralytic.

Mary and Martha also were convinced of Jesus' power. Their brother, Lazarus, had been dead for four days. Jesus demonstrated His power over death by calling for Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus arose from the dead and walked out of the tomb in obedience to Jesus' voice. Lazarus's death and resurrection revealed God's glory (John 11:40).

Not only did Jesus have power over death when other people died, but He had power over His own death. While He was dying on the cross, the crowd taunted Him, saying that if He was who He claimed to be, He should save Himself (Luke 23:35). When Jesus died, many supernatural things happened. For example, the sun was darkened, even though it was still day (vs. 45).

The greatest miracle was yet to come. Having been buried, he was raised to life. The disciples were confronted with the risen Christ, and they were convinced that Jesus did indeed have power over death.

Jesus also has power over natural forces such as the wind and water. In Matthew 14:22-33, Jesus came walking on the water to his disciples as their boat was tossed about on the stormy sea.

(Editorials continued on page 186)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

JOHN 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.

50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

NOTES

Jesus' Claim to Deity

Lesson Text: John 8:31-38, 48-56, 58-59

Related Scriptures: Deuteronomy 13:6-11; Romans 6:15-23;
I John 2:1-6, 22-25; II John 1:9-11

TIME: A.D. 29

PLACE: Jerusalem

GOLDEN TEXT—"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Introduction

In this present age, the truth is not always well received. Even though people raise their right hands and swear on oath to tell nothing but the truth, many lie anyway. Corporate scandals seem to occur regularly, and some of the highest executives have been convicted for falsifying records. It is now commonplace for people to lie about anything and everything.

Dishonesty is by no means something new to our society. History is filled with lies. Sadly, lying goes along quite naturally with a secular society, for there is no accepted standard of truth by which

people live, only each individual's preference. In contrast, the child of God knows God's revealed truth. That is the only standard by which people can rightly measure themselves.

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. **NEEDING TRUTH**—
John 8:31-38
- II. **CONFRONTING ACCUSATIONS**—
John 8:48-53
- III. **HONORING CHRIST**—
John 8:54-56, 58-59

Exposition: Verse by Verse

NEEDING TRUTH

JOHN 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33 They answered him, We be

Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.