

WEEK 37

WEEK 37 (Sept 8 – Sept 14) :- Luke 9:18-36

	Event	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
1	Revelation of the King (Peter's Confession of Christ)	16:13-17	8:27-30	9:18-22	6:66-71
2	Revelation of the Church	16:18-20			
3	Revelation of the Death of Christ (His Passion)	16:21-23	8:31-33	9:21-22	
4	Revelation of the Reward for Following Christ (Cost)	16:24-26	8:34-38; 9:1	9:23-27	
5	The Transfiguration	17:1-9	9:2-10	9:28-36	
6	The coming of Elias	17:10-13	9:11-13		

1. In **Matthew 16:13**, Jesus said, “Whom do men say that **I the Son of man** am?”. In that statement, Jesus called himself “**the Son of man**”. And then in **verse 16**, Peter said to him, “Thou art the Christ, **the Son of the living God**”. In that statement, Peter rightly called Jesus “**the Son of God**”. What is the difference between “Jesus, the Son of man”, and “Jesus, the Son of God”?

Answer

Jesus is both “the Son of God” and “the Son of man”.

The title “the Son of God” is for his spiritual identity, which can be seen from two angles:

- That he is God. That he has the same nature with God. Meaning that he is fully (100%) God, who existed in the very beginning (**Genesis 1:1**). (It does not mean God became pregnant and gave birth to him.)
- That he is the Christ, of whom the Old Testament prophets spoke about.

The title “the Son of man” is for his natural or human identity. It means, he is fully (100%) a human being.

Bringing it together, Jesus is 100% (fully) God, and also 100% (fully) man. He was “the Son of God” that later became “the Son of man” when he came into this world.

2. **John 6:66** “From that time, many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” Can we say these disciples that went back lost their salvation?

Answer

No, they were not saved to start with. They were called disciples, but they were not true disciples, because they did not believe in him.

Earlier in that chapter (in verse 64), Jesus said, there were some of his disciples that did not believe in him. And it is only those who believe that are saved (Mark 16:16).

Outwardly, they were with Jesus, but inwardly in their heart, they were not, because they did not believe in him. They only followed him because of the signs and wonders they saw him do, not because they truly loved him.

But, at some point, the false disciples went back, and the ones who truly and surely believed in him stayed with him. (Peter said in John 6:69 “And **we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**”. That is a true disciple.)

In short, they didn’t lose their salvation, they were not saved at all, they only followed him.

(It is therefore not everyone who joins the church and claims to be a disciple that is truly one. This was the case of Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8. They will join the church, be among the disciples, but their hearts are not right. With time, such people will fall back, but the true ones will stay and continue in faith)

3. Did Judas Iscariot lose his salvation?

Answer

No, Judas did not lose his salvation. He was not saved to begin with.

After Jesus taught a hard teaching in **John 6**, many of his “false” disciples left him. But the twelve apostles, including Judas, stayed with him. Then Jesus made a comment to the twelve that stayed, saying, “I have chosen twelve of you, but **one of you is a devil**” (John 6:71)

The one which was a devil among the apostles was Judas Iscariot. He was never saved. He had always been a child of the devil. But Jesus kept him around on purpose.

(Have you ever wondered why God did not destroy Satan after he sinned against God? God deliberately kept Satan around. Just the same way Jesus kept Judas around. Judas is a devil, but he had a part to play in God’s plan. It was God’s plan for Jesus to be betrayed and killed, Judas played the betrayal part.

In the same way, Satan has a part to play in God’s ultimate plan. And this is why God is still keeping Satan around. Satan is evil, but God yet uses his evil acts for his good plans. For instance, he killed Jesus, but God used that evil act for the salvation of all men.)

4. **Matthew 16:18** “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Explain the terms :-

- i. Church
- ii. Gates of hell.

Answer

The word “**church**” means the community or collection of Christians (saints) all over the earth, and even those in heaven. It does not mean a physical building where Christians gather for worship, rather, the Christians that gather to worship are the church.

Gates of hell :- The word “gate” is figurative of power and authority. The gate of hell therefore means the power and authority of hell (or of the kingdom of darkness).

5. God’s plan is good. However, suffering can be part of God’s plan for a man. Use the case of Jesus as an instance.

Answer

The Bible talks about how Jesus showed his disciples **from the Old Testament Scriptures** of how he must go to Jerusalem and suffer.

If Jesus’ suffering was documented in the Old Testament Scriptures many years before he came into the world, that means his suffering was not an accident, it was actually God’s plan for him.

And if God could plan that Jesus would suffer, that means, suffering can actually be part of God’s plan for a man.

However, the story of Jesus did not end with suffering, it ended with resurrection and glorification. That means, the suffering God allows a man to go through is actually a stepping stone to greatness.

When we are therefore passing through any suffering, if we are sure the suffering is of God, we should ask for the grace required to go through the suffering, and not look for a way to sideline it. For there will definitely be a glory at the end of the suffering.

(NOTE :- The reference to this answer is in **Matthew 16:21**).

6. Jesus did not die accidentally. He knowingly, intentionally and deliberately went to be killed. Briefly discuss.

Answer

Yes, Jesus did not die accidentally. The Scripture makes it clear that he knew, through the writings of the prophets, that he was meant to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die.

Knowing this, when the time was right, he deliberately went to Jerusalem, and handed himself over to the religious leaders to do to him what the prophets wrote concerning him.

He therefore did not die accidentally but deliberately.

7. Why did Jesus call Peter “Satan”?

Answer

Jesus called Peter Satan because he did not have in mind the things that concern God, but rather the things that concern men, and as a result, he **opposed** God’s will for Jesus.

The things that concern and pleased God was for Jesus to go to Jerusalem to suffer for the sins of mankind. This suffering was God’s will, and Jesus even showed his disciples where God foretold it in the scriptures by his prophets.

But because this will of God for Jesus did not sound good to Peter, out of human feelings, Peter spoke against it. And by speaking against God’s will, he was acting as an adversary (i.e. an opposition to God’s plan). This was why Jesus called him “Satan”.

The word “Satan” in that context does not mean the devil, rather an adversary (i.e. one who opposes).

(Let me give an analogy to put this matter in practical terms. Imagine, the parents of a Christian sends him to one of the most expensive schools in the world, with the intent of their son becoming maybe a great engineer or a doctor. Then, when the child graduates, God spoke to him and calls him into a full-time ministry.

This brother gets home, discusses it with his parents, and all hell let loose. The parents of this brother want the best for him. But, from their human perspective, accepting the call to full-time ministry is like going backward. They therefore opposed the call.

By opposing the call of God over this brother, those parents are acting as “Satan” (opposition). The word “Satan” in that context does not mean the devil, but rather, one who opposes.

And if anyone finds himself in a situation like that, where when you discuss God’s plan for your life with your friends and families, just like Peter did to Jesus, they oppose it. Their

opposition may not be because they hate you, it may be because they are just concerned about your wellbeing.

But, you must always be able to separate human concerns from God's concerns. God does not see things the way man sees it. Those that are opposing it are doing so because they are looking at the matter from human perspective. You should not be discouraged. If God says this is the way, even if it is not clear to you, yet go ahead and walk in it. Time will tell that God's way is right.)

8. Jesus said "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me". As a follower of Jesus, state what it means to you personally to deny yourself for Jesus.

Answer

To deny myself means :-

- To say "NO" to myself, when what I want or desire is against God's will.
- To say "NO" to my sinful desires. The sinful things I enjoy before, I will now say NO to them.
- To say "NO" to the ownership of my life, and hand it over in submission to Jesus. (This means, I will now see myself as a servant of Jesus, and therefore I don't own myself, and it is what he says that I will do, even if it is inconvenient)

(This is why when preachers preach Jesus to people, they say "Give your life to Jesus". They are simply saying, submit and surrender yourself to his Lordship. A man is not yet a true disciple of Jesus if he is unwilling to submit to all that Jesus commanded in the scriptures, and the things that he will yet command him. According to Matthew 28:20, a true disciple of Jesus is one who observes all things whatsoever Jesus has commanded. And this is what it means to deny himself.)

9. Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Use the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21 to buttress the scripture above.

Answer

In Luke 12:13-21, Jesus talked about the story of a rich man who had a very bountiful harvest. This man gained a lot in that very year. So much that his barns were unable to contain it. But because of this man's foolishness, God decided to take his soul from him the same night.

When his soul was taken, of what profit will all the gains of this man be to him?

That means, the soul of a man is more important than anything the man gains in this world. A man must therefore watch after his own soul, value it and treasure it above any material thing of this world. For we brought nothing to this world, and will take nothing out.

10. Narrate the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. **(GOLDEN QUESTION)**

Answer

Narrate **Matthew 17:1-9**

(NOTE :- This story was also stated in Mark 9:2-10, or Luke 9:28-36, but for uniformity, narrate the one in Matthew 17:1-9)