

Righteousness, Inside Out

Chapter 15

Audio lesson: New Testament 15



Objective: To explore the teachings of Jesus in His conversations with other people.



“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

—Matthew 16:24-26

Jesus proclaimed that He would build His church, and the gates of Hell would not stop Him. The context of this announcement was that Jesus asked His apostles, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter responded, “You are the Christ!” which means the promised Messiah.

As important as this confession of Peter is, the response of Jesus to this confession is even more significant. Jesus was very clear that Peter had not come up with that answer on his own. The Father had revealed it. Jesus would build His church on the miracle that a man as ordinary as Peter could say something as wonderful as that. In fact, the church would be filled with ordinary people who do extraordinary things because they are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

It is very important that we too have the right answer to this question Jesus asked the apostles. We need to know that He is Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the promised Redeemer and Savior of the world.



1. True or false? When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were immediately filled with faith and courage.
2. True or false? Peter did not walk on the water until he was sure the Lord was calling him.
3. True or false? Jesus waited until Peter called out to Him, until he prayed before He reached out and rescued Peter.
4. True or false? Jesus taught in many ways other than just parables.
5. True or false? Jesus' conversations with the religious leaders were always polite and friendly.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

6. Which of the following words describes the disciples in the boat in the storm?
 - a. Full of faith
 - b. Excited
 - c. Terrified
 - d. Trusting in Jesus
7. Which of the following words describes the righteousness of the Pharisees?
 - a. Pure
 - b. External
 - c. Internal
 - d. Inspired by God
8. What did Jesus say about the traditions of the religious leaders?
 - a. They were not from Scripture.
 - b. They were found in Scripture.
 - c. They were better than Scripture.
 - d. They were always very instructive and helpful.
9. How do traditions apply to Christians today?
 - a. We do not have any traditions. We only practice what is scriptural.
 - b. Traditions are always wrong and sinful.
 - c. Traditions can be helpful sometimes, but they can never be considered as important as Scripture.
 - d. Traditions are sacred—a sign of God's continuing revelation to humanity.
10. What causes human beings to be corrupt?
 - a. Unfortunate circumstances
 - b. Pressure from other people
 - c. Poverty
 - d. The sinful nature within us

11. What was Peter's answer to Jesus' question, "Who do you say I am?"

- a. A great teacher
- b. An enlightened soul
- c. The Christ, the Son of God
- d. A reincarnation of Elijah

12. Who revealed Jesus' identity to Peter?

- a. God the Father
- b. One of the other disciples
- c. Peter's own wisdom
- d. No one. He just guessed right.



If Jesus asked you who you think He is, how would you answer Him? In what ways has He revealed Himself to you? Are you facing any storms in your life? How does Jesus want you to respond?



Thank God that He has an answer for our sin problem and Jesus cleanses us from the inside out. Thank God that He promises to always be with us, even in the midst of our storms. Ask Him to continue to purify your heart so that you will trust Him

more.



Going Deeper

1. Explain how the differences between the righteousness Jesus taught and the righteousness of the Pharisees were internal rather than external, vertical rather than horizontal, and scriptural rather than traditional. _____

2. How are we to apply the teaching of Jesus (as recorded in Matthew 15) that the issues that cause us to sin are not outside-in, like environment, but are inside-out, or heart issues? _____

3. What is the application in this same context of the emphatic declaration of Jesus that extra-Biblical authorities for faith and practice should never be put in the place of the final authority for faith and practice that we find in the inspired Word of God? (Think of those like Mormons, the Christian Scientists, or others that have extra- Biblical authorities for faith and practice.)

4. How are we to apply the teaching of Jesus that we are to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him, and then lose our life that we might find it? _____

5. What should be our personal application of the teaching of Jesus in His dialogue with Peter about Who had revealed to him the answer to the question, “*Who do you say that I am?*”

6. What truth can we apply to the reality that Peter did not walk on the water until he was certain it was the Lord and that his Lord had invited him to walk on the water? _____

7. As recorded in Matthew 16: 24-26, what value did the Lord place upon our soul and what did He mean by our soul? _____
