

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

The idea and a great part of the information for this particular lesson has been taken from Henry T. Blackaby's book, *Experiencing God*, Chapter 17. (Blackaby, Henry T. *Experiencing God*. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.)

Lesson 19 – Adjusting Your Life to God (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question. The majority of students will correctly say that accepting Christ has been the event that changed their lives. Affirm this and explain that a relationship with Christ affects every area of our lives.

Study Notes:

1 Kings 19:19-21

What did Elisha do before Elijah threw his cloak on him? He was a farmer.

- Elijah throwing his cloak around Elisha meant the transfer of prophetic authority from Elijah to Elisha (read 19:16). The cloak represented his "mantle of authority." Elisha wore it after Elijah went to heaven and used it to part the waters of the Jordan River, demonstrating the transfer of the prophetic ministry.

How did Elisha respond to the call to succeed Elijah as prophet? He burnt his farm equipment, cooked his oxen, and fed them to the community.

- Note that when Elisha made the adjustment, he did not take control of Elijah immediately, but he could be his apprentice and learn from him. Immediate obedience to the call of God is essential and we should be careful not to run ahead of Him.

Luke 18:18-27

What did the rich young ruler want from Jesus? He wanted to know how to receive eternal life.

How did Jesus initially respond to his question? He instructed him to obey the commandments.

When the rich young ruler declared obedience to the commandments, what did Jesus tell him to do? To sell everything he had and give it to the poor.

How did the rich young ruler respond to Jesus' statement? He went away sad.

Many have debated the question of what happened to the rich young ruler. Did he repent? The Scripture is silent about this question. The main point of the passage is that God brings to our attention the things in our lives that we do not completely surrender to Him. This is not a punishment, nor is it God trying to taking away our fun, what God wants is to help us experience an abundant life (John 10:10).

**** Special – Surrendering Your Material Possessions ****

Jesus' words to the rich young ruler were very hard. They sound especially harsh to our modern, materialistic culture. Is every Christian really required to surrender all of their worldly possessions? In medieval times, monks often took a vow of poverty to serve Christ, renouncing all material things. Our modern answer to this question is often not to even consider it, or to suggest that Jesus asks us to maintain a "spiritual indifference" to possessions. When should we ever not consider Jesus' teaching? It is difficult to remain indifferent of possessions without actually surrendering them. One good thing to remember with respect to possessions is that we do not really possess a single thing. We are simply administrators of the resources God has given us and He has the right to ask us to use them in whatever way He knows is best.

Summary: We must make important adjustments in our lives to participate in God's work.

Application:

Help students to discover areas in their lives that they need to adjust with God. After students note some general areas, ask them to think of a specific example of something that needs to be adjusted in their lives. For the example we have given, a change in circumstances could be a change in our career or location.

Lesson 19 – Adjusting Your Life to God

Time for a Change

Up to this moment, what event has changed your life most?

In his book, “Experiencing God” by Henry Blackaby, he says the following:

*“Many of us want God to speak to us and give us an assignment. However, we are not interested in making any major adjustments in our lives. Biblically, that is impossible. Every time God spoke to people in the Scripture about something He wanted to do through them, major adjustments were necessary. They had to adjust their lives to God. Once the adjustments were made, God accomplished His purposes through those He called.” * (Blackaby 279-280)*

Look at an example of the important adjustments made in Elisha’s life. Read 1 Kings 19:19-21 and answer the following:

Verse 19 – What did Elisha do before Elijah threw his cloak on him?

Verse 21 – How did Elisha respond to the call to succeed Elijah as prophet?

Elisha left everything he had to obey God’s call. He removed any temptation to return to his old way of life and put all of his trust in God. This is a perfect example of adjusting your life to God. Now we are going to look at another person in the Bible who was given an invitation to adjust their life to God. Read Luke 18:18-27 and answer the following questions:

Verse 18 – What did the rich young ruler want from Jesus?

Verse 20 – How did Jesus first respond to his question?

Verse 22 – When the rich young ruler declared obedience to the commandments, what did Jesus tell him to do?

Verse 23 – How did the rich young ruler respond to Jesus’ statement?

The rich young ruler was only interested in “eternal life,” not in a relationship with Jesus. He did not really understand what eternal life is. In John 17:3 Jesus says, “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” Eternal life is an eternal and intimate relationship with the Lord. To have a relationship with Him, we should be prepared to adjust our lives to Him.

Types of Adjustments

Why kinds of adjustment could God ask you to make? There is no way to list all the possible things you may need to change in your life, but these are some general categories:

- **Circumstances** (work, house, finances...)
- **Relationships** (family, friends, business associates...)
- **Thoughts** (prejudices, decision making, your potential...)
- **Commitments** (to family, church, work, plans, tradition...)
- **Actions** (how you pray, give, serve...)
- **Beliefs** (about God, His plans, His ways, your relationship with Him...)

The list could go on and on. In the previous lesson, we studied about crisis of belief. When God calls us, we must decide what we believe about God. That mental decision can be the difficult part. The difficult part is often taking action that demonstrates your faith. This is the point of adjusting your life to God. Perhaps in reading the above list, you recognized one or more areas in your life right now that require adjusting to God or that He will ask you to change in the future. Write these areas in the spaces below. An example has been provided for you.

Circumstances

Scripture to memorize:

Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.
Luke 14:33

*Blackaby, Henry T. Experiencing God. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.