

What Does It Mean To Become A Christian?

Lesson 7

Matthew 19:16-26

Memory verse

Everyone who receives Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.
Acts 10:43

Opener

When someone says that he is a Christian, what does that mean? Explain that today's lesson is about a man that learned what it means to be a Christian. Challenge them to listen and explain it to you after the lesson.

Scripture

Matthew 19:16-20

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19honor your father and mother,'^[a] and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

A Jewish leader asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could enter the kingdom of God (Heaven). He wanted to live forever.

Jesus knew the young man was very rich. He also knew the man had trained for many years to be a religious leader. Jesus told the young man something he already knew. Jesus told the man to follow the commandments (rules).

Ask: Can you name the 10 commandments?

We can look them up in Exodus 20.

Discussion

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Matthew 19:21-26

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the commandments. Can you believe that! That means he must have been a really good person.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew that there was one thing that separated him from God. He knew the young man loved his money more than anything else in the world. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his money to the poor and follow Him.

When the man heard this, he gasped. He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not given God first place in his life. He was not willing to give up his riches and follow Jesus. So he walked away, very sad, because he could not put God ahead of money.

Matthew 19:21-26

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Jesus commented that it was easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich person to go to Heaven because it is hard for them to give up all they have.

Ask: Can doing good things get you to heaven?

Some people overheard Jesus talking and asked who could go to Heaven. Jesus responded by saying that people could not get to Heaven by themselves. People cannot get to Heaven by being good enough or doing the "right" things. Jesus said it is impossible with man, but it is possible through God.

Ask: Is it possible to go to heaven?

Matthew 19:26

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The way for us to get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son. He was born and lived with us. While He was here He did not do anything wrong. He did not sin at all. Many people loved Him, but others decided that He must die because of the things that He was saying.

These people arrested Jesus and put Him on trial. He was finally sentenced to death--on a cross! However, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life.

Ask: How do you do this?

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

You must be sorry for the sin in your life (the wrong things that you have done). You must tell Jesus that you have done wrong and ask Him to forgive you. Then you must believe in Jesus and pray for Him to come into your life. Praying this prayer means that He has to be the most important thing to you now. If you mean what you say, Jesus will come into your life and you will go to Heaven.

Ask: So, what's next?

When you pray this prayer, you probably will not feel any different or see fireworks etc. It may seem so simple, but Jesus will come into your life and He will never leave you. You will want to spend time with your new best friend. Read your Bible, pray and learn more about Jesus. Invite other friends to church and tell them about the prayer you prayed.

Ask: So what does it mean to be a Christian?

It means that you love God first and best. No one or nothing is ahead of God. It does not mean that God will make you get rid of all your money. It does mean that God wants the best place and the **only** place in your heart. You will try to think good thoughts. When you are a Christian, you will also want to be good—to obey God