



Mustard Seed Children's Ministry

Sunday School Lesson for June 11, 2006

Released on June 7, 2006

"Finding Wisdom"

GOLDEN TEXT-"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth" (I Corinthians 2:13).

LESSON POINT: The Pharisees, like many so-called wise people, did not accept the spiritual wisdom Jesus taught.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT (I Corinthians 2:1, 6-16):

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a

man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the LORD, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

NOTES ON THE LESSON:

First Corinthians 2 introduces us to more of Paul's instruction to the church at Corinth. This instruction was intended to help them become informed, confident, Spirit-instructed believers.

Previously in this New Testament book of the Bible, Paul had discussed the need for unity among the believers. In this chapter he focused on the message-which was really God's message-that he had preached to them on his first visit. He said he had not tried to impress them with fine oratory or human wisdom. He had simply preached Jesus and the Cross, trusting that the Holy Spirit would do His work.

Paul assured the Corinthians that his message was God's wisdom. It was not man's. God's wisdom can be understood only through the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

The one who has God's wisdom is someone who will "trust in the Lord with all [his] heart" (Prov. 3:5). He will not depend on his "own understanding." He will be mindful to follow God's wisdom. God will guide him along the paths he takes.

Paul went on to link God's wisdom and the Holy Spirit. God has given each believer the Holy Spirit, as Paul said elsewhere (Rom. 8:9). One of the Spirit's ministries is to make God's children understand "the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Cor. 2:12). It is. The Spirit who knows "the deep things of God" (vs. 10); He is the One qualified to reveal the truth.

Ask for the Spirit to direct your thinking. Ask that you will miss nothing He is saying to you. Ask for Him to so guide you that you will not in any way distort the truth. Ask God to enlighten the minds of your boys and girls as they listen. He is able to reveal truth to them as well as to you.

Teaching is a heavy responsibility, but you are not alone. Depend on your indwelling Helper.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Show that believers have access to God's wisdom through the Holy Spirit, who teaches us.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

Wisdom is knowing and then doing what is best, which is really the will of God.

Man's wisdom is limited, but God's is perfect.

Christian boys and girls can expect the Spirit to enlighten them when they listen to or read God's Word.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, take a sign reading "Wise" and a picture showing the wise man's house built on rock.

For Telling the Lesson, make signs reading "Wisdom" and "God." (Save the "God" sign for later use.) You will also need a picture depicting the resurrection and a drawing of the cross.

For Helping to Remember, provide for each child a blue 3-by-5-inch index card, crayons, glue, a half sheet of colored construction paper, and glitter.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Everybody knows about the wise men who went to see Jesus. Sometimes a grown-up will be talking about a friend and say, "She is one of the wisest people I know." (Hold up "Wise.") What is being wise?

Jesus once told a story about two men who built houses (Luke 6:47-49). One man built his house on sand, and along came a big storm and washed his house away. The other man built his house on rock. (Show house.) Jesus said he was wise because he built on a strong place. (Show "Wise" again.) What must it mean, then, to be wise?

TELLING THE LESSON:

Last week we talked about the letter Paul wrote to his church friends in Corinth. He told them they should get along with each other because they were one family. Remember? Next he wrote about something he wanted *them* to remember. He reminded them of when he had first visited their church.

He said, "I did not use good-sounding talk or the world's wisdom when I brought you God's news." (Show "Wisdom.") That word "wisdom" sounds and looks a little like "wise"; but what is wisdom?

Think for a minute about that man in Jesus' story. Jesus said that man was wise. He was wise because he knew where the best place to build a house was, and he built his house there. That is being wise-knowing what is best to do and then doing it. We say wise people have wisdom. Wise people do not know everything in the world, but they know the best thing to do right now.

Some people are wiser than other people, but God is the wisest of all. (Show sign reading "God.") Because He is God, He knows many, many things we do not know. Only God knows what is best all the time. Only He does what is best all the time. There is a big difference between God wisdom and the world's wisdom.

Listen to what Paul told Jesus' people next: "The news I brought to you is not man's wisdom but God's."

We know just what that wise news from God was. Paul told them Jesus died for their sins. He told them Jesus was buried, that He rose, and that people saw Him alive again (I Cor. 15:3-4). (Show resurrection picture.)

Do you see how wise God is? He knew that was just the news the people in Corinth needed to hear and believe so that they could have their sins taken away. God always knows what is best for us to know and to do.

Is there any way for us to be wise? If being wise means knowing and then doing what God says is best, is there any way for boys and girls to know what is best to do? The Bible says yes. Yes, there is. God has made a way.

You see, many things happen when we believe in Jesus as our Saviour. (Show cross.) Our sins are forgiven. God makes us His own children. He joins us to the Lord Jesus, and then we have life forever with Jesus. He also gives us the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us and be our Teacher. It is God the Holy Spirit who helps us understand the Bible. God's Book tells us what God says is best to do; and knowing what God says is best and then doing it-that is being wise.

Let me tell you a story. A certain woman was growing old. She read the Bible, but she could never understand it. She knew about Jesus, but she did not know that Jesus could take her sins away all by Himself. Then one day she heard that He could, and she believed He had died for her.

Now, you could not tell right away by looking at this woman that something special had happened to her, but something had. Her sins had been forgiven. Now she had life forever. God the Holy Spirit came to be with her and in her. The woman picked up her Bible. She read some verses, and she said, "I can understand it now!"

You know why. Now she had a special Teacher inside, the Holy Spirit, that she had not had before. He was helping her understand what God the Father put in His Book. (Hold up your Bible.)

People who have not believed in Jesus yet cannot understand the Bible. They might even say it is foolish. That is because they do not have the Holy Spirit to teach them.

You boys and girls who belong to Jesus have this same Teacher, the Holy Spirit, with you and in you to make you wise. Remember that being wise just means knowing and then doing what God says is best.

Questions and Answers

Q1: Who can help you understand the Bible and how to obey God?

A1: The Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost)

Q2: Why is The Holy Spirit able to help you understand the Bible and how to obey what it says?

A2: The Holy Spirit helped the men who wrote the Bible to write the Bible, He understands the Bible, and He has the power to help us do what God says is best.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

The Bible tells us to be wise (cf. Eph. 5:15-17). Your job is to find out what God says is best. He knows. When you hear a Bible lesson or read your Bible, remember that God the Holy Spirit is with you. Ask Him to help you know what God wants you to do, and then do it.

Another Question and Answer

Q3: Whose job is it to find out what God says is best and do it?

A3: Yours (and mine). God wants all of us to listen to Bible lessons and read the Bible, then to remember what it says, and do it.

HELPING TO REMEMBER TELLING THE LESSON:

Direct the children to fold their blue cards in half, making a book. Each one will print "Bible" on the front and glue the back to the center of his colored paper. Above the Bible have the students print "God's Wise Words." They may then put glue along each edge of the construction paper and sprinkle it with glitter. Suggest they ask Dad or Mom where to display their work at home.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth" (I Corinthians 2:13).

"Holy Ghost" is just another name for the Holy Spirit. Sometimes He is called that. "Ghost" here does not mean a Halloween ghost. Paul said that when he taught someone, he was not teaching just something people thought was wise. He was teaching what God the Holy Spirit had taught him.

Q4: Why do some people read but still not understand what the Bible says?

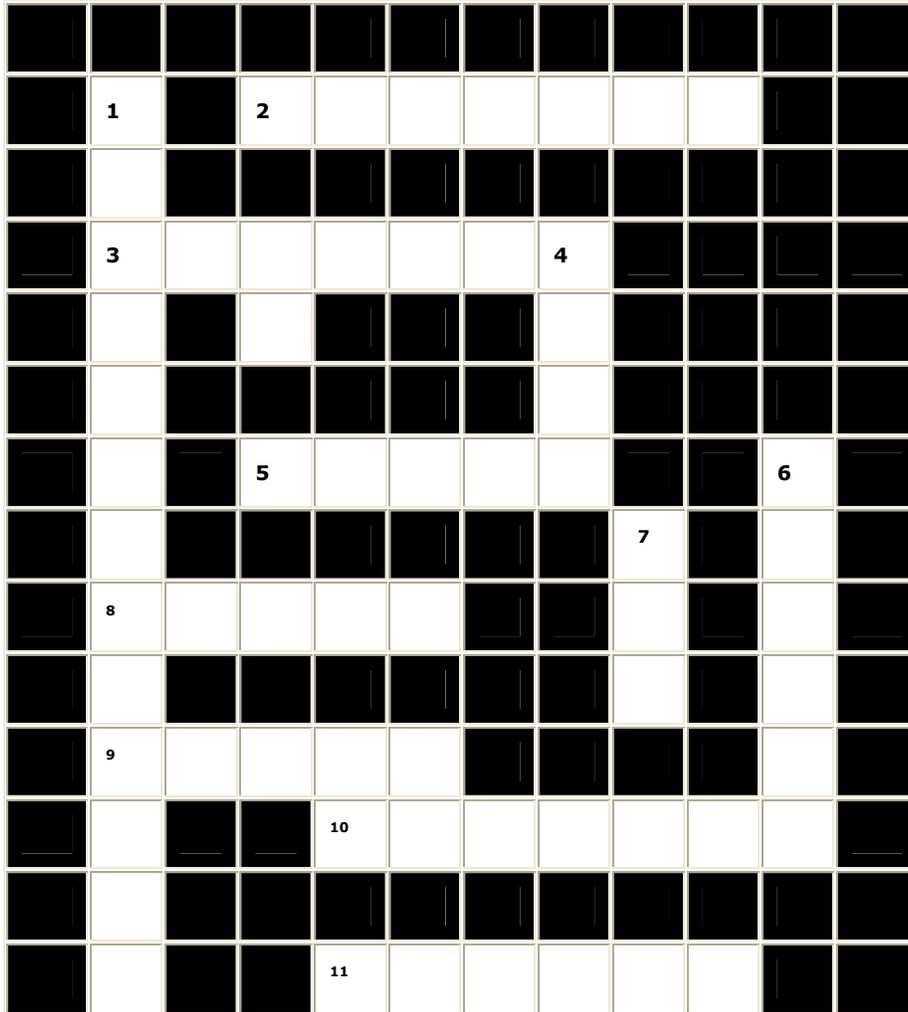
A4: Because they have not asked for or have not accepted the help of the Holy Spirit that makes it possible for them to read or hear the word of God and understand what the Bible is saying.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITY: FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1. God's wisdom is _____ the same as man's wisdom.**
- 2. God's words are full of _____.**
- 3. The Holy Spirit is also called The Holy _____.**
- 4. The Holy Spirit is available to _____ us understand God's word and obey it.**
- 5. God _____ knows what is best for us.**
- 6. Wisdom is _____ what is best to do and _____ it.**
- 7. The Holy Spirit helped _____ to write the book of First and Second Corinthians.**

ANSWERS: 1: not 2: wisdom 3: Ghost 4: help 5: always 6: knowing, doing
7: Paul

FINDING WISDOM CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS:

- 2** A part of wisdom is _____ what is best to do. (Answer: Knowing)
- 3** If we ask, The Holy _____ our thoughts and help us understand God's word and ways. (Answer: Directs)
- 5** The Holy Spirit helped men, including Paul, to write the _____. (Answer: Bible)
- 8** The Holy Spirit is _____ available to help us. (Answer: Always)
- 9** Another part of Wisdom is _____ what we understand is best according to God's word. (Answer: Doing)
- 10** The Holy Spirit is also a _____, helping us to learn what is best. (Answer: Teacher)
- 11** "Howbeit we speak _____ among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:" (1 Corinthians 2:6) (Answer: Wisdom)

DOWN:

- 1** Without the help of the Holy Spirit it is impossible to have _____ of God's word and ways. (Answer: Understanding)
- 4** The Holy Spirit protects us and keeps us _____ from the wisdom of man, which is not helpful in knowing what is best or in pleasing God. (Answer: Safe)
- 6** The Holy Spirit is also known as our _____. (Answer: Helper)
- 7** If you want God's help, you have to _____ Him to help you, and He will. (Answer: Ask)

Crossword Puzzle shown with answers below:

	1U		2K	N	O	W	I	N	G		
	N										
	3D	I	R	E	C	T	4S				
	E						A				
	R						F				
	S		5B	I	B	L	E			6H	
	T							7A		E	
	8A	L	W	A	Y	S		S		L	
	N							K		P	
	9D	O	I	N	G					E	
	I			10T	E	A	C	H	E	R	
	N										
	G			11W	I	S	D	O	M		

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