



Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for June 17, 2007
Released on Wednesday, June 13, 2007

“True Worship”

Printed Text: Isaiah 1:10–11, 14-20.

GOLDEN TEXT- “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

Isaiah 1:10–11, 14-20

10 Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

11 To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.

...

14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

16 Wash ye, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

TEACHER’S NOTES ON THE LESSON

The message God gave each of the prophets was a little different from the others. The messengers themselves were sometimes sent to different parts of the country, and sometimes the problem itself differed.

Hosea and Amos preached to northern Israel, where God's people had fully adopted the idol worship of the surrounding Canaanites. The Prophet Isaiah was sent to the southern kingdom.

The population in Judah was far down the slippery slope of spiritual decline, but they still clung to the temple ritual. They believed God was satisfied with their going through the motions of worshipping Him. But He was neither satisfied nor pleased.

They were indeed carrying out ceremonies the Lord Himself had commanded, but as Isaiah told them, the Lord wanted none of it. They were like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the publican. God wanted true worship. Instead, what He saw was unconfessed and unforsaken sin.

Nevertheless, God still loved and wanted His uncaring people. So He sent Isaiah with the plea "Come, let us reason together concerning this situation." God was willing and able to forgive and make them acceptable: He could and would make the most glaring sin as white as snow if they would but acknowledge their need and come.

This lesson will remind believing children of the kindness of their heavenly Father and what He has graciously done for them. It can also remind them that His invitation to come and be made clean is for more than just themselves. It is God's invitation to the whole world. That is why Jesus has told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Making Jesus known to others is the lifelong job of every believer.

Assure any in your class who are not believers that the invitation of Isaiah 1:18 is for them. Lay out the basics of the gospel. Give these children something to believe.

As you prepare, pray that the Lord will give you the exact words that will fit their varying needs.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that the first step in pleasing God is not doing a series of things to satisfy Him but coming to Him for cleansing from sin.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Attempting to please God by carrying out rules does not in fact please Him unless our sin is dealt with first.
2. God's invitation to sinners is "Come and be made clean."
3. Our part is to come for cleansing ourselves and then to do all we can to help others learn of God's invitation.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, take a bright red cloth and a white cloth. Make two flash cards reading "sins" and "come."

For Helping to Remember, for each child draw two large identical lamb shapes on construction paper, one red and one white. The children will need scissors (round edge for safety), black crayons or markers, and glue.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Ruthie's grandmother lived by herself. For that reason, she was often lonesome and liked people to come visit her.

One afternoon, Ruthie's mother said, "Walk over and keep Grandma company for a while. I will pick you up on the way home from my church meeting."

"OK," Ruthie said. Then she looked at the bowl of fruit on the kitchen table. "I will take a big red apple for her too," Ruthie said. And she did.

At Grandma's house, Ruthie gave her grandmother the apple. Then she went out and played in the backyard with the girl who lived next door until Mom picked her up.

Grandma had the nice red apple, but what did she really want? She wanted Ruthie to spend time with her. That was more important to Grandma than bringing her something.

There was a time when what God's people were doing was a little like what Ruthie did. Let us see what that was. (Open your Bible.)

TELLING THE LESSON

The Bible-time people we have been hearing about were not doing what pleased the Lord. But that was not because God had not told them what was right. He had. Then He kept sending men such as Hosea to remind them of what He had said. He sent Amos to do the same thing.

Now it happened that more of God's people lived where the temple was. These people had not forgotten about the Lord the way Hosea and Amos's people had. These people remembered that the temple, their place to worship God, was a special place. And it was. It was God's place.

These people were careful to keep the temple rules. They came to the temple on special days. They had feasts, special times when they ate together. They had special temple meetings. They burned sweet-smelling incense powder to God. They killed lambs and burned them on the altar, offering them to God every day. They prayed. They thanked God.

These people thought the Lord was pleased with them because they were doing all these good things. The trouble was that keeping certain rules did, not make God happy with them at all, because they were leaving out the most important thing.

This time the Lord sent Isaiah to tell the people what that thing was.

"Rulers, people, listen!" Isaiah said. "The Lord is tired of your special days and your special meetings. He hates the burnt offerings you bring. He will not even hear your prayers. That is not what He wants."

What *did* God want? Isaiah told them, and this is what he said: What God saw when He looked at them was sin that needed to be taken away.

You see, Hosea and Amos's people had forgotten God, and that was wrong. These people remembered, but they thought that keeping certain temple rules would make the Lord happy with them. They were wrong too. What God wanted first was to hear them ask to be made clean from their sins. (Show "sins.")

The Lord loved His people. Isaiah told them God was saying, "Come to Me. Even if your sins are scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Even if they are crimson, I will make them as white as wool."

Both scarlet and crimson are bright red, like this. (Show red cloth.) What color is a sheep's wool? It is white, like this. (Show white cloth.)

Sometimes your mother has to get a stain out of a dress or a shirt. She may soak the clothes in water that has a little bleach in it, and often the ugly stain comes right out. You would never know it had been there. But if the stain happens to be bright red, most times she will never get it out. It just sits there and looks ugly.

The Lord said, "Come, and I will wash away your sins. No matter how bad they are, I will make them like clean, white snow." (Show "come" and the white cloth.)

The people thought just doing certain things made everything right with God. They were wrong. They had left out the most important thing-asking Him to take their sins away.

This makes me think of a story Jesus told. One day, He said, two men walked up the steps into the temple. Both were coming to pray.

The first man felt good about himself. He thought he was doing the things that would make God pleased with him. So he prayed, "Thank You, Lord, that I am not like that man praying over there. I do not cheat others. I give money to the temple too." He told the Lord about all the good things he had been doing.

The second man did not feel happy about himself at all. He did not even feel like holding up his head. He just prayed, saying, "Oh, please forgive me. I have sinned."

The two men finished praying and went home. Jesus ended His story by saying it was the man who said "Forgive me" whose prayer pleased God. He was the one who went home forgiven.

You see, the other man was like those people Isaiah talked to. He thought that just keeping certain rules would make God happy with him. But he was wrong. He too forgot the most important part-that God wanted to hear him ask for his sins to be taken away.

That is the news Jesus wants people today to hear: Come and have your sins forgiven first. Then you will want to please and thank God, and then He will be happy with you.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

Let us pray that the Lord will send more missionaries to tell this news to people in faraway places. Many people in the world do not yet know that God sent Jesus to take away sins and that only He can do it.

Let us give what money we can when there is a missionary offering. Let us talk to our friends and invite them to Sunday school so that they will hear too.

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Let the students cut out their red and white lambs and glue them back to back. Each will then print the words "Though your sins be as scarlet" on the red lamb and "they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18) on the white lamb. Let them imagine they are missionaries in a faraway place. How would they tell a child there what the handwork means?

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Scarlet and crimson are both bright red colors. Sin does not have a color, but God says in this Bible verse that if it did, and even if your sin were bright red, the worst sin stain it could be, God can forgive you and make it like white snow and lamb's wool. He can do this because Jesus died for your sins.

LESSON ACTIVITY

"True Worship" Puzzle (Isaiah 1:10-11, 14-20)

O L P C S B H V N X W G H F D
F A V Q R C R I M S O N T E O
F W N R E D M V P E C E T A O
E G O D Y O D K V O L I E S G
R S N A A Q U W P R H P Q T D
I H A L R W R P A W H W O S U
N E E C P U R C H P L I O E L
G B L Q R E S R I R Y F P N P
S R C B S I T N E I D E B O S
M A A S U W F F R L I V E U F
E Y E R O O U I F E I Q D Q M
S D T R E S R D C Y D E W L O
N W D N E B R T J E K Q V H U
W O O L S O E Y G S S S D E T
M T L O L O Q L S R E L U R H

CLEAN
FEASTS
LAW
OBEDIENT
PEOPLE
RED
RULERS
SNOW
WOOLS

CRIMSON
GOD
LORD
OFFERINGS
PRAYERS
REFUSE
SACRIFICES
TROUBLE
WORD

EVIL
GOOD
MOUTH
OPPRESSED
REBEL
RELIEVE
SCARLET
WHITE

True Worship Solution (Isaiah 1:10–11, 14-20)

O L + + S + + + + + + + F D
F A + + R C R I M S O N T E O
F W + + E + + + + E + E T A O
E G O D Y + + + + O L I + S G
R S N + A + + + P R H P + T +
I + A + R + + P A W + W O S +
N E E C P + R C + + + + O E +
G + L + R E S R + R + + + N P
S + C B S I T N E I D E B O S
+ + + S U W F F R L I V E + +
+ + E R O O U I + E I + + + M
+ D + R E S R D C + D E + + O
+ + D + E B R T + E + + V + U
W O O L S O E + + + S + + E T
+ + + + L + + L S R E L U R H

(Over, Down, Direction)

CLEAN (3, 9, N)
CRIMSON (6, 2, E)
EVIL (13, 10, W)
FEASTS (14, 1, S)
GOD (2, 4, E)
GOOD (15, 4, N)
LAW (2, 1, S)
LORD (5, 15, NE)
MOUTH (15, 11, S)
OBEDIENT (14, 9, W)
OFFERINGS (1, 1, S)
OPPRESSED (10, 4, SW)
PEOPLE (15, 8, NW)
PRAYERS (5, 7, N)
REBEL (4, 11, SE)
RED (9, 10, SE)
REFUSE (10, 8, SW)
RELIEVE (8, 8, SE)
RULERS (14, 15, W)
SACRIFICES (2, 5, SE)
SCARLET (7, 8, NE)
SNOW (15, 9, NW)
TROUBLE (8, 13, NW)
WHITE (10, 6, NE)
WOOLS (1, 14, E)
WORD (6, 10, SW)

26 of 26 words were placed into the puzzle.

Lesson Summarized By:

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Jesus Is All Ministries

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