
Soular Powered by the Son

Adult lessons

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Soular *Powered by the Son*

Monday June 20	Jesus Walking on Water
Tuesday June 21	Jesus Heals a Blind Man
Wednesday June 22	Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead
Thursday June 23	Jesus Teaches about the Prodigal Son
Friday June 24	Jesus' Triumphal Entry



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Classes for infants thru Middle School ages.
Adult class also provided, taught by Ed Rangel, evangelist at
the Spearsville Road Church of Christ in Trafalgar, IN.

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Jesus walks on water

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

Thesis: Since we are mere people and get tired so frequently, exhausted so often, strained and pressured from every side, living in a mad rush, and face so many storms in life; we tend to lose focus and become weak and discouraged. It is through the presence of the Lord Jesus that we have the power to face and overcome the storms of life.



Introduction:

A. The Son is the all powerful God.

1. He created the heavens, earth and all therein. (Jno. 1:3; Col. 1:16)
2. The Scriptures declare the deity of the Son. (Matt 1:23; Luke 1:31,35; Heb. 7:26, I Peter 2:22; Acts 2:22; 10:38; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; Acts 1:9; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3)
3. When He put on the human flesh He was tempted as we are yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15)
4. The Messiah overcame, conquered and is now sitting at the right hand of God. (Acts 2:30ff)
5. His faithful life on earth and obedient spirit resulted in our salvation. (Philippians 2:8)
6. It stands to reason that the Son will care for us and that He will forever be with His children. (Rom. 10:13; Heb. 13:5)

7. If we seek we shall find, if we ask we shall receive and He will will empower us to fight against all the wiles of the devil.
- B. In this lesson we will learn that the Lord's presence makes all the difference in the world and, His presence is:
1. Assured by personal preparation through prayer (Matt. 14:22-23)
 2. Subjugates fear (Matt. 14: 24-27)
 3. Awakens the hope of being saved (Matt. 14:28-31)
 4. Conquers nature (Matt. 14:32)
 5. Rouses confession and worship (Matt. 14:33)

Body:

1. Prayer-personal, intimate prayer prepares us to face the storms of life. Jesus' prayer life is our example (Matt. 14:22-23)
 - A. The Son's presence is assured to us when we pray. Jesus demonstrated this when He took time to pray alone. If the Lord sensed a need for personal preparation through prayer and took time to pray by Himself, then we too should follow His example.
 1. Notice that Jesus "constrained" (compelled [Darby], made [BBE], insisted [NIV]) the disciples to cross the lake.
 - a. The zealots recognized the power that Jesus had when he fed the 5000 men with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish (Matt. 14:19) and they wanted to take Him by *force* to make Him the King Messiah (Jno. 6:15).
 1. This was the second time the devil had offered this type of temptation to Jesus (Matt. 4:8).
 2. He offered Him the easy way out. With John the baptist's death (Matt. 14:1ff), it was a dreadful reminder to the Lord that His cruel death was at hand.

- b. Jesus needed to secure salvation for His creation through His death at Calvary and the resurrection-the conquering of death and binding the devil (Gen. 3:14ff; 1 Cor. 15; Rev. 20:1ff)
 - c. Jesus needed time to be alone with God:
 - 1. He needed to be renewed and strengthened (Lk. 22:44 -angels came and strengthened Him in the Garden of Gethsemane)
 - 2. He needed to recover a clear perspective of His mission (Heb. 4:15-16)
 - 2. During this time the disciples were supposed to be rowing to the other side of the lake, but had encountered some issues-their very own storm!
- B. Jesus prayed on top of a mountain: It is interesting to note that the Lord made His way to a mountaintop to be alone with the Father and pray.
 - 1. Here, on top of the mountain He could see the awesomeness of God's creation, the valleys, mountains-His creation! What calmness comes over us when we recognize the power of God. What peace and hope we have when we recognize that God is present in our lives, because as long as He is present we can overcome!
 - 2. Christ prayed in the evening: This is a time when we are worn down because of all of the day's activities, burdened with the stress and pressures of our day's labors. During the evening it is a perfect time to offload our burdens and hand them over to God. We can be energized and recharged for the next day's activities.
- C. Applications:
 - 1. "We are mere people. We get tired so frequently; exhausted so often; tempted so much; pressured so tightly; strained so painfully. We fight to keep our minds on Christ and struggle to maintain a moment-by-moment consciousness of His presence (2 Cor. 10:5). We war to keep at our task. Such takes its toil, wears us down mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Our only hope is to learn that Christ's presence, a consciousness of His presence, is assured by prayer-much prayer. We must learn to spend much time alone with God."

2. “A dedicated person lives in a mad rush and is attacked time and again by distraction after distraction. It is impossible to remain strong and faithful to Christ without getting alone for prayer and renewal. Such is the way God has chosen to teach us to trust. We are not self-sufficient. If we want the assurance of His presence and if we are going to do what He has sent us into the world to do, we must spend time alone with Him.
 - a. Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
 - b. Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
 - c. Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
 - d. Ephesians 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints
 - e. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,
 - f. 1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!



II. Fear-Christ's presence conquers fear (Matt. 14:24-27). The storm and the disciples' experience in it makes the point

A. A storm arose while they were crossing the lake

1. Boat “beaten” or “tossed” by the waves due to the winds. *Tossed* is from *basavizomenon* which means to be *pitched about with great force*
 - a. This is a descriptive picture: the boat was tossed so ferociously that it was in *pain and anguish*

- b. The storm arose while the disciples were doing exactly what the Lord had commanded them to do. Why then, while they were in obedience, were they being tempest tossed? (Matt. 5:45) "...makes the sun rise on the righteous and unrighteous..."
 2. Jesus did not immediately go to them, He allowed them some time to struggle. Why?
 - a. Maybe the disciples needed to be taught to trust Him and to obey His command no matter what happened to them. This storm happened and it was a teaching opportunity for the Lord: **they were to trust in His care and will.**
 - b. The disciples also had the opportunity to learn that during life's storm they needed, although Jesus was with them, to use their own strengths, initiatives and skills to push through them. Once they did all they could and Jesus stepped in they shouted with joy and confessed the deity of Jesus as the Christ. It was Jesus who saved them.
- B. Overwhelmed with fear at the thought that they were seeing an apparition (ghost)
 1. The waves being agitated by the strong winds, the boat tossed about, and all of a sudden they see this ghost.
 2. Mariners are very superstitious. Maybe they thought they were seeing the death angel.
 3. Whatever they thought, they were afraid and cried out in fear.
- C. Jesus gives them peace with His presence and calming words.
 1. Nine words of extreme comfort: *Take heart; It is I. Do not be afraid.*
 2. Jesus' words and His presence "are a marvelous revelation of His care and power to save us through the storms of life."
- D. Scriptures:
 1. **Matthew 28:20** ESV teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2. **Genesis 28:15** ESV Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."
3. **Exodus 33:14** ESV And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
4. **Psalms 28:7** ESV The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
5. **Psalms 40:17** ESV As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!
6. **Isaiah 43:1-2** ESV But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. (2) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

E. Applications:

1. We should not turn back when storms arise, no matter how terrible the trial. We should not give up, throw in the towel and abandon God. Christ is able to take these trials of life and make opportunities out of them. They give us experience in the life of faith. (Rom. 5:3-5: "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.")

2. When we are tempest tossed, when the walls have collapsed on us, when sickness, disease and death threaten us, when our friends abandon us, when nature seems to be against us, when our life is falling apart-**If Jesus is present in our lives, He will rescue and save us.**
3. “Christ is ever so near and ready to help those who will call out to Him. His presence is most assuring, comforting, and strengthening to the true disciple.”

III. Christ’s presence awakens the hope of being saved (Matt. 14:28-31)

A. Peter’s excitement:

- I. When Jesus assured the disciples that it was He who was walking on the water, Peter exclaimed that if it was really Him then to command Peter to walk to Jesus.
 - a. Peter’s personality: Cannot keep his mouth shut, says the wrong things at the wrong time, argues what he does not understand does not listen and can become a violent person.
 - b. Was Peter wanting to walk on water so that he could be like Jesus? Was Peter wanting to show off? Was he testing the Lord?
 - I. No! During all of this there is still a strong storm threatening the boat. What Peter is asking is for the Lord to save his life! “Lord, if it is you, then get me out of this danger!”
 2. Peter was in a hopeless situation and knew, as an experienced fisherman, that death was imminent.

B. “Come.” Jesus was not suggesting that Peter come. The Savior was not extending an invitation for Peter to join Him. It was an outright commandment.

- I. Whenever a person sees and understands that he is lost without Jesus, and that the Lord is the only hope of salvation, then the **command** is for that person to come to Jesus.
2. Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 1:18

C. Peter’s faith faltered

1. Peter had faith that Jesus could rescue him. He knew Christ loved and had the power to save him. He asked to join Christ, he asked for salvation and Jesus responded by saying “Come!” It was when Peter took his eyes off Jesus, and focused on the storm that he began to drown. Even though he became weak and his faith faltered Jesus saved him.
2. Mark 9:24 “Lord, help me with my unbelief!”

D. Applications:

1. This is a picture of salvation. Peter is in the midst of a life-threatening storm and knows that death is inevitable. He cried out so that the Lord could save him. It took an immense amount of faith for Peter to get out of the boat, and in the midst of a storm, to begin crossing the turbulent waves. When he got caught up and distracted with the storm he began to doubt in the salvation the Lord offered him. It takes a lot of faith for a person to obey the gospel, for a person to leave behind the “sense” of security and join the Lord on another journey. When this person begins his new walk with Jesus and begins to look around and become distracted with problems, then his faith falters, too.
 - a. Romans 10:13 ESV For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 - b. Psalms 34:6 ESV This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.
 - c. Psalms 61:2 ESV from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I...
2. Having Jesus in our lives is the answer to the storms of life, to all the distressed spirits. The Son has the power to save us.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:5 ESV who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - b. 2 Timothy 4:18 ESV The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- c. Hebrews 11:6 ESV And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

IV. Deliverance: the Son's presence is powerful enough to deliver us from turmoil to peace (Matt. 14:32)

- A. The Messiah brought peace to the sea thus conquering nature.
- B. The Son brought peace to the disciples.
- C. The Lord will bring peace to all of his followers during the most critical times in our lives.
 - 1. John 14:27 ESV Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
 - 2. John 16:33 ESV I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
 - 3. Philippians 4:6-7 ESV do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

V. Confession: The Son's presence is powerful enough to stir confession (Matt. 14:33).

- A. The disciples were convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, God in the flesh! They did what is natural-they worshiped Him as such and confessed His name!
- B. Even though their understanding was not perfect, they understood enough to believe, worship, obey and have the kind of peace that only God can give us.
 - 1. Matthew 10:32 ESV So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,
 - 2. Luke 12:8 ESV "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,

3. Romans 10:9 ESV because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
 4. 1 John 2:23-24 ESV No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. (24) Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
 5. 1 John 4:15 ESV Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.
- C. Application: The disciples not only believed but they worshipped the Lord. They had a faith that moved them to worship the Lord. God calls us to have faith in Him AND to obey His word (Matt. 7:21)

Conclusion:

- A. “Looking back across the years and reflecting on this dreadful watch in the night and the glorious reunion with the Lord, the apostles must have treasured this as one of their most precious recollections. How fearfully death and life had been intertwined on that night! What triumphant confirmation of their faith! What assurance in hours of trial! Looking back across the centuries at this scene, humble Christians have been reminded of their own redemption amid the storm-swept experiences of life.”¹
- B. By obeying the gospel we too can assure that the Son is ever present in our lives. With His presence we will have the power to overcome all of life’s difficulties and conquer all of our fears.
- C. Gospel plan of salvation.

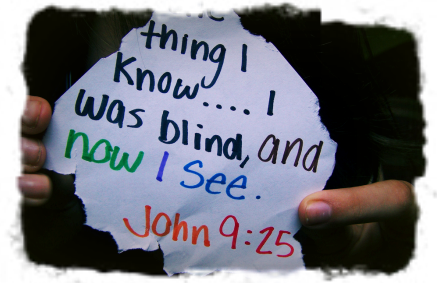
¹ Studies in the life of Christ: R.C. Foster

The Son gives light

John 9

Thesis: The Son gives light (to the blind He gives sight) because there is:

1. Need: There is a need for the blind to see, in the spiritual sense
2. A Name: The Son has the authority to give light
3. A Notion: Once the blind receive light they will tell others about the wonders of the Son
4. A body of believers: The blind who see will believe and worship together
5. A Night: An eternal blindness is coming for those who do not see



Introduction:

- A. The account of the man born blind is considered to be one of the highlights of the Gospel according to John. The grand climax of this Gospel is found in John 20, when Thomas was overwhelmed by the final evidence of the deity of Christ as he worships the risen Christ with the immortal words :My Lord and My God.” John 11 is another high point. as Mary and Martha worship Jesus as the Son of God. But the man born blind was at an disadvantage: Thomas, Mary and Martha had seen Jesus, had fellowshiped with Him, had seen His miraculous works and His divine power. The blind man had not seen any of these things, and yet he believed.³
- B. John 9:1-3
 1. While walking down the road, the apostles encountered a blind man. This man had been blind since birth.

² Relied heavily from Kevin Cauley’s sermon on John 9

³ Studies in the life of Christ: R.C. Foster, page 835

2. Unsolved mystery: “Who sinned?” Did the parents sin or did the man sin?
 - a. Since the days of Job there was a common philosophical belief that if there was something wrong with you, it was because of sin committed by you or someone you knew.
 - b. Notice that Jesus rejects this idea. He says that neither did his parents or the blind man were at fault. The Son says that there is a greater purpose at work here. This man was born blind to show the works of God.
 - c. Jesus does not address the philosophical question, and therefore it remains unsolved.
- C. This story is fascinating. There are several things that we can learn from this man in this story that can be applied to us today.
- D. Let us study together and keep in mind that this chapter is about Salvation, and that the Son gives us light to spiritually see and tell others about His great power to save mankind. Let us awaken and be evangelistic minded.

Body:

- I. There is a need for the blind to see
 - A. John 9:6-7
 1. There was no doubt in the mind of Jesus that He could heal this man.
 2. He spat into some dirt and made some mud.
 3. He anointed the blind man’s eye with this mud.
 4. The Son gave the blind man the instructions to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.
 5. The blind man, desiring to see, obeyed and washed in the pool.
 6. The miracle was complete, through this man’s obedience he could see.
 - B. Today, the blind have a need to see as well

1. The blind are those who are in sin/darkness. **Zephaniah 1:17** ESV I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.
 2. God has promised to open the eyes of the blind.
 - a. God promised through Isaiah the the blind would see: **Isaiah 42:5-7** ESV Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: (6) "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, (7) to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
 - b. Luke (2:32), Acts (13:47; 26:23), quote this prophecy as being fulfilled in Christ.
 - c. Jesus is the LIGHT of the world and those who are blind today may see through His power! **John 8:12** ESV Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
 - d. Just as this blind man obeyed Jesus and went and washed himself in the Pool of Siloam, so too, those who desire to receive sight must obey Jesus as well. He is the author of eternal salvation, "...unto all them that obey Him..." (**Heb. 5:9**)
 - e. If the blind man had refused to go wash, he would not have received his sight.
 3. Are you someone who needs to see today? Consider obeying the Gospel.
- II. There is a name by which one can receive his sight-ONLY JESUS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DO THIS.
- A. John 9:3-5
1. Jesus came to manifest the works of God and show His authority over all things.

2. This one miracle alone proved that he was the Son of God. After the blind man had been healed and was questioned by the pharisees, he defended himself by saying:
John 9:29-33 ESV We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." (30) The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. (31) We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. (32) Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. (33) If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."
 3. Only Jesus, and He alone has divine claim.
 4. Jesus is THE ONE, TRUE, LIGHT of the world.
- B. In reference to Jesus' authority, nothing has changed today. Jesus still is the only one who has authority today.
1. He owns the name which is above all names. **Philippians 2:9-11** ESV Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 2. It is only through His name that salvation is offered. **Acts 4:12** ESV And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 3. He has been given all authority in heaven and earth and He commands us to take the light of the Gospel to all the blind. (Matthew 28:18-2)

C. Do you recognize the power to see in this great name?

III. There is a logical succession of things: When the blind are made to see, they will share their experience with others-they will preach the gospel to other people

A. John 9:8-34

- I. His neighbors asked about him.

2. He tells them what happened.
 3. They take him to the Pharisees.
 4. He confesses that the Son is a prophet.
 5. He claims that God hears Jesus.
 6. He says that the Son is a worshipper of God.
- B. Those who have been blind and now see WANT to tell others of the work of God in their life.
1. The apostle was once physically and spiritually blind, and he recounted his testimony several times:
 - a. **Acts 13:47** ESV For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"
 - b. **Acts 26:16-18** ESV But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, (17) delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you (18) to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
 2. The apostle John recognized the same thing:
 - a. **John 1:4-5** ESV In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (5) The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
 - b. **John 1:9-13** ESV The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. (11) He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (12) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

3. Do you want to tell others of how Christ helped you see?

IV. A body of believers: The blind who now see want to believe and worship God

A. John 9:35-38

1. The blind man who now sees is found by Jesus.
2. Jesus asks him if he believes in Jesus.
3. The formerly blind man WANTED to know who He was so that he COULD believe in Him.
4. Jesus told him, it is the one who is speaking to you!

B. Those today who have accepted Christ's will in their lives were formerly blind, but now they see and they seek to believe and worship the Christ as His people.

1. The formerly spiritually blind are a holy nation: **1 Peter 2:9** ESV But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
2. They are His people whom He established in the mountain: Isaiah 2:1ff
3. They are His Kingdom: **Colossians 1:13** ESV He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
4. The Kingdom is His church: Matthew 16:18-19 ESV And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (19) I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
5. This is where God is glorified today! **Ephesians 3:21** ESV to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

C. Is your fellowship with the blind who now see?

V. A night: An eternal blindness is coming for those who do not want to see.

A. John 9:4; 39-41

1. Jesus spoke of the night that is coming.
2. There will be no more work for Him in that night.
3. He spoke of those who refuse to accept sight from him.
4. He came to judge them. The Pharisees were among these people.

B. There is a night coming for those who remain in blindness today.

1. These are the blind who lead the blind (Matthew 15:14)
2. These are the ones who claim to see but do not see. “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them...” (Matthew 13:15; Acts 28:27).

C. These will end up in utter darkness there will no longer be any sight. (Matthew 25:30; Jude 6, 13)

D. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever (2 Peter 2:17).

E. Do not be caught blind at His coming! He gives sight. The Son gives us light. Will you receive it today?

Conclusion:

A. To the blind the Son gives light because there is:

1. A Need
2. A Name
3. A Notion
4. A Nation

5. A Night

B. God's commandment to obey the gospel

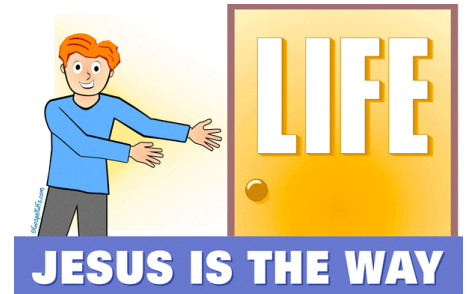
The Son gives us life⁴

John 11

Thesis: Because Jesus is the resurrection He gives us life.

Identifying Jesus in this way means that He is:

1. The Son of God
2. Powerful and authoritative
3. The bringer of hope
4. The bringer of life
5. The promiser
6. The overcomer
7. The future



Introduction:

- A. When asked to name a miracle of supreme power, the Christian usually names the stilling of the storm, the walking on water, the feeding of the 5000, or the resurrection of Lazarus.
- B. **John 11:25-26** ESV Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
- C. The text:
 1. Background of the text:

⁴ Adapted from Kevin Cauley's comments and sermon on John 11

- a. Jesus and His disciples had been mistreated by the Jews and their lives were at stake.
- b. Lazarus had become ill and it seemed clear that he would die.
 1. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were good friends of Jesus. It is great to have friends. The best friend to have is Jesus.
 2. Word was sent out to the Lord, and Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness was not going to result in death, but life. This would be for the glory of God, and so that the Son of God might be glorified too.
- c. Jesus does not go immediately to see Lazarus, but decides to wait two days longer and makes the trip to Judea.
 1. The disciples did not want the Lord to go to Judea for fear that the Jews would try to kill Jesus.
 2. "12 hours in the day..." Jesus makes the point that as long as one is doing the will of the Father, one will walk in the light and have nothing to fear. But the one who does not do the will of the Father will walk in darkness, the second 12 hours of the day.
- d. "Lazarus is dead..." (11-15)
 1. The Lord announces again that Lazarus is asleep but the idea is that he is dead and will live again.
 2. The disciples did not understand this-"If he is asleep, then he will wake up..."
 3. Jesus clears it up for them and tells them that Lazarus is dead and that for their sake He is glad.
 - a. Meaning that God will use this death to strengthen their faith.
 - b. He will bring Lazarus back to life and God will be glorified and Jesus will be confessed as the Son of God.

2. That you may believe... (John 20:30-31)
- D. The resurrection:
1. The resurrection of Jesus is the hub of the Plan of Salvation (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
 2. **John 19:35** ESV He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth--that you also may believe.
- E. This section of scripture adds to the "I Am" statements
1. This "I Am" statement tells us more about the Son than any other.
 2. It tells us who the Son is:
 - a. He is the Son of God.
 - b. He is the one who has power and authority.
 - c. He is the one who brings hope.
 - d. He is the one who gives life to the dead.
 - e. He is the one who promises a great future for the faithful.
 - f. He is the one who overcame death.
 - g. He is the one who saves through baptism, a symbolism of His death, burial and resurrection.

Body:

- I. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as the Son of God
 - A. Only the Son of God could make such a claim.
 - B. Martha confessed it: **John 11:27** ESV She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."
 - C. The formerly blind man confessed it too: John 9:35ff

D. John 20:30-31

E. The resurrection of Lazarus from the dead substantiated His claim as the Son of God.

F. His own resurrection provides undeniable proof that He is who He says He is.

II. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as Powerful and Authoritative

A. John 11:39-45

1. There was no doubt concerning His own power in this act.

2. With great confidence and power Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

3. Notice the great result-the people acknowledged His authority.

B. With the very same authority and power that was used to resurrect Lazarus, Jesus was resurrected too.

1. **John 5:25-27** ESV "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. (26) For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. (27) And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

2. Peter also preached of this great power and authority (**Acts 2:22-36**)

3. Paul also acknowledged this great power: **Philippians 3:8-11** ESV Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

III. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as the Bringer of Hope

- A. **John 11:25-26** ESV Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
 - 1. The dead live.
 - 2. The living shall never die.
- B. **Acts 24:14-15** ESV But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, (15) having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.
 - 1. We have hope that we will be resurrected and that in that new form we will live forever with christ.
 - 2. **1 John 3:2** ESV Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
- C. Paul said, **1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** ESV (13) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

IV. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as the Bringer of Life

- A. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life..." (John 11:25)
- B. He brought new life to Lazarus.
- C. He brings new life to those who put their trust in Him.
 - 1. **Romans 6:6-8** ESV We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (7) For one who has died has been set free from sin. (8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

2. **Colossians 2:10** ESV and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
 3. **2 Corinthians 5:17** ESV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- D. He brings eternal life to those who believe on Him.
1. John mentions eternal life more than any other gospel writer.
 2. **John 3:36** ESV Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
 3. **John 6:40** ESV For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
 4. **Romans 6:23** ESV For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

V. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as the Promiser of Salvation.

- A. **John 11:25-26** ESV Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
- B. Do you believe in the promise of Jesus in this passage?
- C. Notice what He says in **John 5:28-29** ESV Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
1. This is the great promise of Christ.
 2. Do you believe in this promise?
- D. The fact that Jesus resurrected, promises us that we too shall resurrect (**Acts 17:30-31**).
- E. **Hebrews 6:17-20**, "Wherein God, being minded to show more abundantly unto the heirs of the promise..."

VI. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as the Overcomer.

- A. Jesus called out to Lazarus and commanded him to come forth (**John 11:43**).
- B. At the sound of the Son's voice Lazarus broke free from the bonds of death and was resurrected.
- C. Lazarus eventually died again, but not Jesus. When He resurrected He did so to never die again. (**1 Cor. 15:20-22**)
- D. If we believe, we too shall one day resurrect to never die again (**1 Cor. 15:50-57**).
- E. **Romans 6:8-11** ESV Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (10) For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. (11) So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

VII. Identifying Jesus as the resurrection identifies him as the Savior.

- A. Jesus provides salvation through the resurrection.
- B. Romans 6:1-11.
- C. Colossians 2:12.
- D. 1 Peter 3:21.

Conclusion:

- I. The statement, "I am the resurrection and the life..." speaks volumes.
 - A. He is the Son of God.
 - B. He is powerful and authoritative.
 - C. He is the bringer of life.
 - D. He is the bringer of hope.
 - E. He is the promiser of salvation.

F. He is the overcomer.

G. He is the Savior.

The Son gives us growth

Luke 15:11-32

Thesis: The Son gives everyone an opportunity to grow in faith and mature. Growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord will help us share the gospel with others and secure our home in heaven.



Introduction:

- A. The background of the chapter:
 - 1. Series of three parables. Each one shows a succession in importance.
 - a. Lost sheep.
 - b. Lost coin.
 - c. Lost son.
 - 2. Each parable has similarities, but there are several differences.
 - a. Similarities:
 - 1. Lost item.
 - 2. Persistence in searching.
 - 3. Rejoicing in finding.
 - b. Differences:
 - 1. The sheep willfully goes astray, but is carried back helpless by the faithful shepherd. The prodigal son says, “I will arise and go to my father...”

2. The coin is completely without any sort of intelligence and choice and is swept out of its hiding place by violence. The prodigal son decides to leave and decides to return to his father's house.
 3. Neither does sheep or coin compete with jealousy like the younger brother did with his elder brother.
 3. The principle which is constant in all three parables is the unfailing effort of the one who seeks the lost. The importance of a human soul and the joy manifest when the lost is found are seen throughout the three parables.
- B. Let us study the parable of the prodigal son, concentrating mainly on the younger son. It is his personal journey that teaches us the importance of growing in the Son, and the ultimate joy that is experienced in heaven and on earth when we mature.
1. There is great joy when the sinner repents.
 2. Repentance is much more than saying, "I am sorry."
 3. Repentance is much more than merely stopping the wrong in one's life.
 4. Repentance is changing one's life to conform to God's will.
 5. Admitting that one is wrong, making it a public acknowledgement, changing our lives to be in step with God's Word and accepting whatever consequence that we may, is true growth.

Discussion:

- I. The first point we see in the prodigal is that he ascended (11-13). Notice the prodigal's...
 - A. Selfishness—"Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me."
 1. He ascended to self. "Loftiness," "haughtiness," "high-mindedness."
 2. Selfishness shows only self-love, and pride.
 - a. **Proverbs 16:18** ESV Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

- b. **Romans 12:3** ESV For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
 3. Selfishness demands things for self-covetousness.
 - a. **Luke 12:15** ESV And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."
 - b. **Hebrews 13:5** ESV Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 4. Selfishness does not wait, it is impatient.
 - a. **Luke 21:19** ESV By your endurance you will gain your lives.
 - b. **James 1:4** ASV And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.
- B. Sojourn- "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country..." (13)
 1. He ascended into his own country.
 2. He gathered his things and left his father's home. He thought he could go it alone without his father's help, all alone.
 - a. **Isaiah 64:6** ASV For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousnesses are as a polluted garment: and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
 - b. **Philippians 3:9** ASV and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, even that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith:
 3. He journeyed.

- a. He had to separate himself from his father.
- b. When we decide to go the way of sin, we are separating ourselves from God (isa. 59:2; Psalm 73:27).

4. **He arrived** to the place of his own desire.

- a. **Psalms 10:4** ASV The wicked, in the pride of his countenance, saith, He will not require it. All his thoughts are, There is no God.
- b. The prodigal went to a place where the father did not desire him to go.
Ezekiel 33:11 ASV Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

C. Satisfaction- “and there he squandered his estate with loose living.”

- 1. He ascended to his own self satisfaction.
- 2. His trust and satisfaction was on his money and what it could buy:
 - a. **Luke 8:14** ASV And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
 - b. **1 Timothy 6:9** ASV But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition.
- 3. He trusted in fake friends. Proverbs 1:10-16 ASV My son, if sinners entice thee, Consent thou not. (11) If they say, Come with us, Let us lay wait for blood; Let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause; (12) Let us swallow them up alive as Sheol, And whole, as those that go down into the pit; (13) We shall find all precious substance; We shall fill our houses with spoil; (14) Thou shalt cast thy lot among us; We will all have one purse: (15) My son, walk not thou in the way with them; Refrain thy foot from their path: (16) For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.

II. After the prodigal son ascended in his own desires and self-satisfaction, he soon began to **descend**. (14-16)

A. Squandered, “Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country and he began to be impoverished.”

1. Proverbs 21:17 ASV He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: He that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.
2. 1 Timothy 6:10 ASV For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
3. The Israelites were saved from slavery but then forgot the good that the Father had done for them: Psalms 106:12-15 ASV Then believed they his words; They sang his praise. (13) They soon forgot his works; They waited not for his counsel, (14) But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tempted God in the desert. (15) And he gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

B. He became a slave to sin- “And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.” (15)

1. Notice how this boy declines little by little into slavery.
2. When we descend into the depths of sin, we become sin’s slaves as well. (John 8:34; “Jesus answered them, ‘Verily, verily. I say unto you, Whosoever committed sin is the servant of sin.’”)
3. Romans 6:16 ASV Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?
4. 2 Peter 2:19 ASV promising them liberty, while they themselves are bondservants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he also brought into bondage.

C. He was starving- “And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.” (16)

1. It is so sad that this man had all that he ever needed in his father's home, and now in a far away country he was desiring to eat the very same things that pigs feed on.
 - a. Psalm 73:18-19.
 - b. Revelation 18:8.
 2. He decided to cut himself off from the source of blessings.
 - a. Rom. 6:20-21.
 - b. Rom. 6:23.
 - c. **James 1:14-15** ASV but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. (15) Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is full-grown, bringeth forth death.
 3. No other man could give him what he needed the most. He decided to cut himself off from God, no one took it away, he gave it away!
 - a. **Jeremiah 2:13** ASV For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.
 - b. **Jonah 2:8**, "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."
- III. The prodigal changed his mind. He realized he was wrong, suffering when he did not have to and that in his father's house there was an abundance of blessings. All he had to do was admit he was wrong and go and ask the father for forgiveness. (17-24)
- A. He repented of his sins of selfishness and pride. He came to himself and **saw** the light!
1. John. 9:39.
 2. John 8:12—I am the light of the world...
 3. Ephesians 5:14; wake up and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.
- B. He was **sorry** and sought a way to make things right (18)

1. He left the pigpen he was in and returned to a place where he would be right with his father.
 2. He sorrowed for what he had done: 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.
- C. He sought to get out of the situation he was in; he sought to get back on the road to his true home; he sought to get back in a right relationship with his father.
1. When we truly repent we get back on the right road and get back in a right relationship with the Father.
 2. **Acts 26:20**; 3:19.
- D. This resulted in salvation (22-24). He was given full entrance with all the “perks” of being in a right relationship with God! (Isa. 61:10; Rom. 13:14; Rev. 7:14)

Conclusion:

- A. Thus is the story of the prodigal son. There is room to discuss the friends, father, elder brother and slave. However, that is not the purpose of this lesson.
- B. The purpose of this lesson was to show how a person can fall out of a relationship with God, and through repentance forgiveness can be granted.
- C. This is truly a picture of growing in the Lord. If we fall from the grace, and then return with a pricked heart, we will demonstrate growth.

The Son gives us magnetism

Matt. 21:1-11; Mk. 11:1-10; Lk. 19:28-44; Jno. 12:12-19; Zech. 9:9

Thesis: The Son was so compassionate and loving that He attracted people to Him. His life and treatment of others teaches us how to be true leaders who can attract others to follow us (in the secular world) and to follow the Lord into the Kingdom and into our mansion reserved in heaven.

Topic: Leadership

Introduction:



- A. The triumphal entrance into Jerusalem takes place a few days before our Lord was crucified.
- B. For three and a half years the disciples had been with Jesus:
 - 1. They had seen His sufferings.
 - 2. They had heard His sermons, and many words of encouragement.
 - 3. They had witnessed His miracles.
 - 4. They had seen Him pray.
 - 5. They had seen Him overcome the temptations of life.
 - 6. They had struggled with their own faith.
 - 7. Their “preacher” training was about to end.
 - 8. Things did not make sense to the disciples during this week, until after our Lord had resurrected
 - a. John 12:16 ESV His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

- b. John 16:13 ESV When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
 - C. The disciples were about to witness the popularity and magnetic personality that our Lord had. Eventually, His popularity would bring Him death. Today the Son is magnetic and teaches us how we too can have magnetism.
- I. The story. Read text: **Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10**. You are encouraged to read all the parallel passages and get a complete picture of this account. This is one of those events mentioned in all four of the gospels.
 - A. John 12:9 tells us that Lazarus, Mary and Martha were with Him.
 - 1. There was a large crowd there. Possibly the people who were originally at the funeral when the Lord raised Lazarus. Maybe, as word spread that Jesus had raised Lazarus more people became interested in Jesus, and now that Jesus is in town again many came to see Him.
 - 2. The chief priests were wanting to kill Lazarus because many Jews were believing in Jesus.
 - B. The donkeys (**Mk. 11:7**; Matt. 21:2; Zech. 9:9), Evidence of the supernatural
 - 1. Two donkeys were brought to the Lord, and He chose the colt, never been mounted before.
 - 2. The people who were at Lazarus' house heard of Jesus' plans so they went ahead and prepared the way for the Lord. Palm branches were laid for the Lord to ride His colt on.
 - a. Palm branches were a sign of victory.
 - b. Some Jewish coins from the 1st century had palm leaf engravings with the inscription: "The redemption of Zion."
 - C. The praise (**Mk. 11:9-10**; Psalm 118:25ff), The adoring crowds, and fulfilled prophecy
 - 1. Many people praise Jesus.

2. He is extremely popular at this point.
 3. Folks are falling over for the Lord.
- D. A moment of sadness (Lk. 19:41ff)
1. Looked over the city and wept over it.
 2. Pronounced the destruction of Jerusalem by the Jew's enemies, the Romans.
- E. Mixed reactions (Mat. 21:9; Lk. 19:39).
1. Some praised Jesus.
 2. Some rebuked Jesus and told Him to hush the crowds. They feared the people had gone after Him (**John 12:17-19** ESV The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. (18) The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. (19) So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him.")

II. The Son's magnetism

- A. All four gospel accounts tell us how the people loved the Lord, how they followed and cheered for Him.
1. Even though these people wanted an earthly king, they still praised and worshipped Jesus mounted on a donkey.
 2. The Son did not ride into Jerusalem with the pomp and circumstance of King David, and the people still respected Him as king.
- B. Why did the people follow Jesus? Why were they drawn to the Son? Jesus was person who had personal magnetism. People were powerfully attracted to Him and the reasons are:
1. He had love in His heart for the people.

- a. Jesus loved every human being, even the worst sinners; those who were outcasts from society-adulterers and the tax collectors. The scum of society, He showed them that He loved them, too.
 1. He loves you, too. No matter what you have done, no matter what your past has been; no matter how many mistakes you have made, and no matter how many sins you may have committed, He still loves you!
 2. And because He loved people so much, He had personal magnetism beyond compare.
- b. If you and I get to know Him we will have that personal magnetism, too, and the people around us will want the religion we have. If people do not want the religion that we have, there is something the matter with our religion-we do not know Him.
 1. A text that illustrates the personal magnetism that Jesus had, which was the result of the love He had for every human being is Matthew 9:9. Jesus *passed by* Matthew, called him and Matthew left everything behind and followed the Lord.
 2. Jesus had drawing power!
- c. If you need a leader in your life that will give you some personal magnetism and make you an attractive human being, Jesus is the One you need. **John 12:32** ESV And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
 2. Another reason why the Son had magnetism was because He was honest. He did not lie, cheat or steal. He had drawing power because of His trustworthiness. You want to be a leader with magnetism? Be trustworthy.
 3. The Son was prepared and purpose driven. He had a goal and every obstacle was not seen as a stumbling block but as a stepping stone that would get Him closer to His goal. You want to have drawing power, too? Don't get stuck and discouraged with the encumbrances of life, but use them to grow and reach your ultimate goal.

4. He was humble. He cared not about His position in the Godhead, but humbled to serve others. (Matt. 20:16 first shall be last; John 13:1ff washing of the disciples' feet; etc.)

Conclusion:

A. Donkey illustration:

B. Impromptu speaking-nothing. You want to have drawing power? You must become nothing!

The story is that a king wanted a spiritual advisor. He had three ministers come to his royal chambers and gave each an impromptu topic. The first one stood up, read his topic and delivered his speech. It was a fair speech. The second did the same and his was better. The third took his topic, looked at it and began to feel fear. His topic was N-O-T-H-I-N-G. He did not know where to begin. After several minutes of silence he began by saying, "Oh!, King of the world. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and all therein. And, do you know what he created it out of? NOTHING! He could have used the most precious metal, but he chose to use nothing. Gold would have worn out, but "nothing" would never wear out. So, my exalted King, if you want to be something, then you must become nothing. If you want people to be drawn to you; if you want people to respect and love you; if you want your kingdom to follow you, then you must put the kingdom before your needs. You must become your kingdom's servant. You must become humble and be as, NOTHING in order to become a great king." The king was so impressed that he made the minister his personal spiritual advisor.

Definitions & Research Material



basavizomenon Tossed

- 1) to test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the colour of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal
 - 2) to question by applying torture
 - 3) to torture
 - 4) to vex with grievous pains (of body or mind), to torment
 - 5) to be harassed, distressed
- 5a) of those who at sea are struggling with a head wind

Part of Speech: verb

A Related Word by Thayer's/Strong's Number: from G931

Citing in TDNT: 1:561, 96