

## **Eleutheros Newsletter**

August 2018

### **News of Interest**

Have you ever felt the urge to present the Gospel to someone but realized you need training or encouragement?

Check out this soulwinning seminar from Eleutheros Books!

<http://www.eleutherosbooks.com>

Click on "seminars"

Eleutheros Books will soon offer a new ministry! It will offer online training and will be called The Eleutheros School of Theology.

The school will open with two course offerings: Soteriology (the study of salvation) and I and II Corinthians.

Both these courses include 30 college/seminary lectures that will be available either on DVD discs or a flash drive.

Interested?

Look for updates in upcoming newsletters!

### ***The Mission of Christ***

*For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many ([Mark 10:45](#)).*

The verse quoted above indicates great reasons why Jesus was sent to this earth. As the King of Kings He very well could have insisted that others take good care of Him and offer Him worldly luxuries.

It was the Father's will that it be otherwise.

The primary mission is obvious, but we will look at three reasons for His earthly ministry:

First, He came to show His love.

He demonstrated His *agape* love in several ways. Consider how He prayed so urgently for believers and His disciples: *I have manifested Thy name unto the men which Thou gavest Me out of the world: Thine they were, and Thou gavest them Me: and they have kept Thy Word. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine ([John 17:6,9](#)).*

*And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not ([Luke 22:31-32a](#)).*

Second, He showed His emotions when He saw suffering people.

When He saw how the people in Bethany grieved over the death of Lazarus, *Jesus wept ([John 11:35](#)).*

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd ([Matthew 9:36](#); see also [Mark 6:34](#)).*

Our Lord healed so many people who had nasty diseases: *For He healed many, insomuch that they pressed upon Him for to touch Him, as many as had plagues. And unclean spirits, when they saw Him, fell down before Him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God ([Mark 3:10-11](#)).*

Second, He came to train His disciples.

Jesus trained them by His example of patience and hard work.

After delivering the parable of the sower ([Mark 4:3-9](#)), the disciples asked Him what it meant. After a very mild rebuke, He explained in considerable depth its meaning.

When Jesus was in the garden, agonizing over His upcoming betrayal, trial, beating, and crucifixion, He desired to have His followers pray with Him, approaching them three times!

What abandonment! And yet, He had the patience to say, *Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed... ([Matthew 26:45](#)).*

And then there was His amazing work ethic!

The Gospels give many accounts of His non-stop efforts to minister in one way or another, but perhaps the most outstanding example is found in [John 5](#) and [6](#). Here we see Jesus working day and night to meet the needs of the people and His beloved disciples.

In John 5 He healed an impotent man on a Sabbath day, facing the criticism of the religious leaders.

Then in John 6, on that same day, *He went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias ([6:1](#)).* When He arrived, *a great multitude followed Him, because they saw the miracles he did on them that were diseased ([6:2](#)).*

In short order He went up into a mountain ([6:3](#)) and eventually performed the miracle of the feeding five thousand men ([6:5-13](#)).

A group of men wanted to make Him their king ([6:16-17](#)), but He departed into a mountain (no doubt, to pray).

That evening, His disciples decided to enter a boat and sail toward Capernaum ([6:16-17](#)). Jesus then came down the mountain and soon was seen walking on the water in the midst of a great storm ([6:18-19](#)).

The next morning many of the people came again to see Jesus Who delivered to them His message on the bread of life ([6:26-58](#)).

Many of the people who had followed Him as long as He was performing miracles decided that such a strong message was “not for them;” so they *walked no more with Him* ([6:66](#)). Then He asked His twelve if they would forsake Him also ([6:67](#)).

Quite obviously, this was more than a twenty-four hour work period! Jesus had healed many, fed five thousand men (beside the women and children), prayed most of the night, preached, and had to suffer the indignity of seeing so many people leaving Him!

It was all in the service of the people and according to the will of the Father, but it had to be very exhausting!

No doubt this was an effort to train the disciples to expect their ministries to be filled with hard work.

Further training can be found in His admonitions, especially during His post-resurrection ministry.

In [John 21](#) our Lord sought out Peter who had previously denied Him three times. In His own powerful way He mildly rebuked Peter, asking him three times if he loved Him. The first two times Jesus uses the verb *agapao*, inquiring if Peter had a deep love, but the third time He uses the verb *phileo*, questioning if he had even a friendship kind of love.

Peter was grieved, but he also received a commission from our Lord. He was to feed His (our Lord's!) sheep! What Jesus did was make Peter accountable for his failure, but then He gave him the assurance that He had a great ministry for Him to perform! What important training this was!

The most quoted example of an admonition in Jesus' post-resurrection ministry is found in the Great Commission: *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world* ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

Just as Jesus ministered to every person and every need He faced, He presented His disciples with the amazing challenge to go and make other disciples all over the world!

Third, He came to die for sinners and save their souls!

*And He said unto them, I must preach the Gospel of the kingdom to other cities also: for therefore am I sent ([Luke 4:43](#); see also [John 4:4](#)).*

*But I have a baptism to be baptized with ([Luke 12:50a](#)).*

*I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly ([John 10:10](#)).*

In responding to Pilate's question about His Kingship, Jesus said, *To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth ([John 18:37](#)).*

*Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins ([Acts 5:31](#)).*

*Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father ([Galatians 1:4](#)).*

*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ([I Timothy 1:15](#)).*

How amazing it is to consider this one simple fact: long before creation Jesus knew that one day He would give His life for sinners such as you and I! Try to imagine, if you can, the thoughts He must have had during all those ages! Unquestionably, He loves mankind so greatly that He gave His life willingly; but He is also human, and the thought of bearing all that sin and having to be separated from His fellowship with the Father while He paid our debt was truly excruciating!

This, of course, brings us to an important question. What should our mission be?

We do well to take seriously the last words our Lord spoke before He ascended to heaven:

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth ([Acts 1:8](#)).*

May God grant us the wisdom, the strength, and the grace to fulfill these words from our Lord!

## **Rescue the Perishing**

Fanny J. Crosby

*Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave  
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save!*

*Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore!  
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,  
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more!*

*Rescue the perishing! Care for the dying!  
Jesus is merciful! Jesus will save!*