

LESSON 10

Foundations Curriculum

The Life of Jesus Was Perfect and Blameless

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Introduction

The Life of Jesus Was Perfect and Blameless

In this tenth lesson, we will speak about the One who is perfect. The text of 1 Peter 2:22 says that “He committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.” We will focus on the person of Jesus and better understand what it means that He was considered perfect not only by the human race, but also by the Father Himself.

1) How Is Jesus Viewed by People in the World and by Part of the Church?

The world sees Jesus as a “good man,” but does not seek in Him any kind of perfection

When we look at the collective view of what people think about the person of Jesus, the idea that lingers in the minds of many is that He was a good man who cared for the poor, preached about love, and welcomed those in need. This is correct, though incomplete.

He may be compared to other men who also did good things for society — such as Mahatma Gandhi (the Indian lawyer who achieved a peaceful resistance in India, leading a successful campaign for Indian independence from the United Kingdom), or Martin Luther King (the American pastor who fought against racial segregation in the United States, leading the civil rights movement). These were good men who sought to do good for the common good and for the marginalized classes, but they fall far short of being compared to Christ.

A quick reading of the Gospels will show us that Jesus is far more than that. He was far more than a “good person” or someone who tried to preach social justice.

Some people even manage to see the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as something great, and as a result come to regard Him as their Savior. Unfortunately, even within the Christian church — whether Catholic or evangelical — many people stop there and do not grow in the full knowledge of Jesus.

For many, the story of Jesus amounts to no more than this: Savior of humanity. And with that, the gospel becomes motivational, self-help in style. The gospel is reduced to producing a sense of well-being for those who hear it.

This emphasis, however, ignores the very essence of what lies deepest in the heart of Jesus — that which caused the Father to cry out from heaven at the moment of His baptism.

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 3:17 (NKJV)

There is a multitude of people who go a little further than this — and see much more: they see the trust Jesus placed in the Father and how courageous, persistent, and brave He was. These qualities reached the point of drawing those around Him to follow Him and be influenced by Him in this regard.

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Matthew 7:22–23 (NKJV)

As the text above shows, having a limited or selective view of the person of Jesus can have eternally damaging consequences: it can end in eternal disaster.

The virtues of Jesus are innumerable. He has more than 300 names recorded in the Bible, and in each title an aspect of the perfection of Christ is revealed.

2) As a Man, Jesus Renounced Every Claim to Glory

The reason behind all the other virtues of Jesus's holy and admirable character

From the standpoint of a God (the Father) who is not satisfied by correct actions alone, but by the intention of the heart, something stands out in the character of Jesus:

He renounced every claim to glory!

The angel of light — the fallen cherub transformed into an enemy — fell precisely because he desired the glory of God for himself. He said, "I will be like the Most High."

It was no coincidence that he planted that poison in the hearts of Adam and Eve. As a result, human beings (because of sin) carry a need for recognition, fame, and self-exaltation.

We must never forget that God abhors this spirit of self-display in His creatures.

An illustration of this is seen with David in two different moments:

Example 1:

In 1 Chronicles 12:33, we find the account of a census taken of the tribes. The purpose was to provide support for David's coronation — it was necessary to count those warriors for David to be crowned king. In addition, there would be many battles against surrounding enemies. David had to fight many adversaries. In this situation, God expressed no disapproval.

Example 2:

In 1 Chronicles 21, however, God was angered and many men died — about seventy thousand in total. In this second instance, there was no reason for the census. David's motive was pure vanity: to display the greatness of his kingdom.

Note that these were two nearly identical situations, but God's response was completely different — because God looks at the intention and the motivation of the heart. God examined the heart of David and could search it.

Why was Jesus approved by God the Father? The answer is simple: because it was the heart of Jesus that God was looking at.

Examples 3 and 4:

Other striking examples appear in Isaiah 10:1–15 and Daniel 4:30–31. The first recounts the king of Assyria, who was used by God to discipline Israel.

Likewise, Nebuchadnezzar was an ungodly king with an extensive empire. As Daniel records:

"The king spoke, saying, 'Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?' While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!'"

Daniel 4:30–31 (NKJV)

3) The Contrast in Jesus

Jesus lived to please the Father

As we noted before, He renounced every claim to glory! In which moments is this contrast recorded in biblical history?

At the time of Jesus's baptism, He was already thirty years old and had not yet preached to the multitudes, nor had He made any disciples — not even one. He had performed no notable miracle or wonder.

Why, then, did the Father rise up and respond with such great delight?

Because Jesus had not competed for the glory of God — there was no rivalry on His part. He always attributed all merit and honor to the Father.

The Eternal Word, the Creator, possesses this perfection: of giving God the Father all honor and glory. Only God the Father is to be glorified. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus said: "Hallowed be Your name."

Only the name of God is to be hallowed.

A COMMANDMENT

We are to be holy in our conduct, thoughts, and attitudes — but our hearts must cry out for the name of God to be magnified.

Where does our glory lie? In being known by God, not by men.

What good is it if men applaud us, if we are not received by God, who reads our hearts? Think on that.

This attitude of giving honor to God made Jesus perfect before the Father! Jesus never exalted His own name (Philippians 2:5–8). That was done by the Holy Spirit. And the Father gave Him a name above every name (Philippians 2:9–11).

4) Jesus Did What He Did Out of Love for the Father

Jesus acted out of love; His decisions and responses were out of love for the Father

He showed us His love for the Father. He was a Son who loved the Father. The Father's love for Him was the center of His confidence and identity, but it was never merely the reason for His actions. He Himself declared: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34).

He accepted being hated by the world for speaking to men about their evil deeds.

He accepted being a stumbling block to His own family.

He accepted and submitted to an unthinkable sacrifice out of love for the Father's will.

5) The Key for Us: Love for God Sums Up All the Commandments

Nothing in our lives can be more powerful than love for the Lord

The apostle John declared the truth that He loved us first, and that is why we love Him. Moreover, John insists that, having been loved by God, we are now called to love Him in return.

A Note of Interest

In 1 John 4, God's love for us is referenced 6 times. God's love in us — loving Him and our neighbor — appears 14 times.

How many messages exist in the church today about God's love for us — and how many are there about our love for Him?

It is worth remembering that many have come to know the Father's love and then abandoned it. Knowing the Father's love is the beginning for us. Loving Him is the reason we remain on this earth.

What will it profit us to know the love of God if we do not love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength?

What will eternity be worth to us if we do not have God's testimony that we loved Him and that our lives revolved around that love?

We are to obey out of love for Him; preach out of love for Him; shepherd out of love for Him.

6) The Heart and the Mouth

Why does God specifically mention the mouth?

It is simple: the perfection of Jesus in the heart can only be measured by God — but we can identify His perfection through His words.

God sees our heart, but men read us by what we say. Only God the Father could read all the intentions of the heart of Jesus, but we can agree that He is perfect based on the things He said — and especially based on what He did not say, for He never glorified Himself.

It is with the mouth that we:

build up or tear down;

insult or bless;

lie or speak transparently;

flatter or honor in truth;

exalt ourselves or honor God and others.

It is with the heart and the mouth that:

It is with the heart that we make choices and decisions, but it is with the mouth that they become visible to others;

It is with the heart that we may seek the honor and glory of men, but it is with the mouth that we will exalt ourselves;

It is with the heart that we can fill ourselves with bitterness, but it is with the mouth that we will slander;

It is with the heart that we will love the lost, but it is with the mouth that we will proclaim to them the gospel of salvation;

It is with the heart that we will love Jesus, but it is with the mouth that we will shepherd His sheep.

Jesus leaps from the Scriptures in all His perfection and glory. Amen!

CONCLUSION

In this tenth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we learned about some of the misunderstandings that ordinary people — and even part of the church — hold regarding the person of Jesus. Some regard Him as Savior but do not see Him as Creator and Lord. We also saw why God the Father so greatly rejoiced and was pleased with His Son — on account of the attitudes and posture of love He

embodied. We saw how Jesus had a sincere heart before God and how genuinely He honored the Father, never seeking glory or recognition for Himself. We also examined the contrast between the heart and the mouth, and how visible that contrast is to others.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** Have I been discerning the perfection of Jesus's heart attitudes?
- 02** Do I regularly compare my own attitudes with those of the Lord Jesus?
- 03** Am I open to allowing others to help me grow toward the perfection of Jesus?

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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