

## 5. SIN CAN CHANGE YOUR CHARACTER

Every famous picture before it's ever hung in a hall of art, it has to be hung, go through the hall of critics first. The man who painted that...?... Or, pardon me, I can't call his name, painted the "Last Supper," anyhow, it cost him his lifetime. He painted that picture. It was about twenty years, or ten years, I believe, between painting Christ and Judas. And did you realize in that famous picture, that the same man posed for Christ, ten years later posed for Judas? That's right. He did. Ten years of sin, from a great opera singer to take the place of Christ, come to the place of Judas. You don't have to take ten years; it takes ten minutes, will do the same thing to you. **It'll change your character in sin.** But anyhow, that picture went through all the critics. WMB

### THE STORY:      CHANGED FROM A GOOD CHARACTER TO PORTRAYING A BAD CHARACTER.

Here we have a story of a famous artist, who painted many works of art, including the famous painting of the Last Supper. He took much time, even many years to complete a painting of some event or some person. First the painting would go through many critics, who weighed up the worth of the paintings.

A masterpiece is one that could go through many critics and finally got to be hung in A Hall of Fame.

This famous artist hired a certain man to pose for a painting of Jesus at the last supper. That meant that the hired man whom he chose, appeared to be like Jesus and how he would have looked like at that ancient time.

There must have been some characteristics of gentleness, kindness and love and compassion in the looks of this man who posed for the picture of Jesus.

FOR THIS PAINTING OF THE LAST SUPPER, this famous artist painted the pictures of both Jesus and Judas. It took him a lifetime to complete it. He first painted the picture of Jesus. Many years later.... about ten or twenty years later, he used that same man to be the model of Judas for him. The features of the man, who had posed as Jesus had changed to someone's, who could have well been Judas' face. The model was the same man who was then sitting for this picture of Judas, twenty years later.

Br Branham says that sin can change your character. Characteristics of nastiness and wickedness, of greed, of self indulgence, or of cunning could have been seen in his facial expression.

This change of character does not necessarily come after twenty years; sin can change your character in only ten minutes of living in wickedness and worldly pleasures.

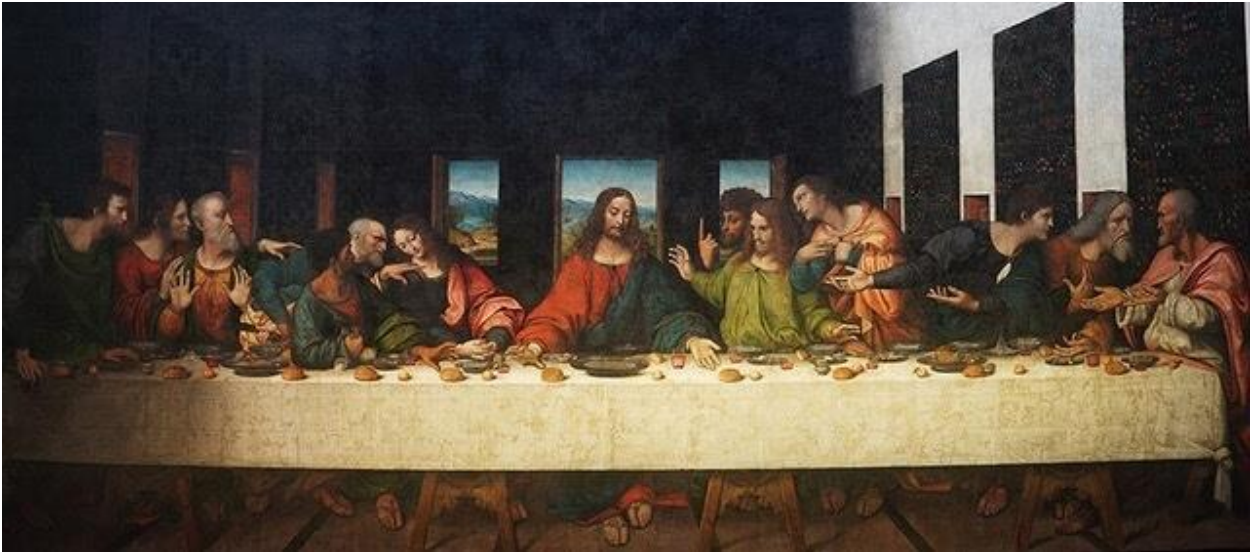
### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ANSWERS: SIN IN HIS LIFE;      LUCIFER;      MICHAEL,      THE ARCHANGEL;      TEN MINUTES;  
SATAN;      HIS LOOKS AND NATURE CHANGED FROM GOOD TO EVIL;      TWO THIRDS.

1. Which Great Being in heaven by rebelling against God, was cast down out of heaven? .....

2. The Bible tells us that he desired whose kingdom? ....., .....
3. How many of the angels did he deceive? .....of heaven's Angels
4. He then became an evil spirit or the Devil and was called .....
5. In the above story why did this famous artist get the same man who modeled for the portrait of Jesus .....to model again, this time for the portrait of Judas ?  
e.g. **How did his looks and nature change?**
6. **What in his life changed** the life and character of this man after so many years?
7. Sin can change your life very quickly even in a.....minutes.

### **PAINTING OF THE LAST SUPPER**



## **6. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS IMPORTANT**

### **WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE INFLUENCING SOMEBODY BY YOUR EXAMPLE!!!**

#### **STORY: BOY ...DADDY I'M TRYING TO FOLLOW YOUR FOOTSTEPS**

An old story of some years ago in England... There was a man; he thought he would go out and have a little friendly drink at Christmas time just for fellowship. And he went out among his neighbours, and he was exchanging presents. And everybody would say to him, "Now, John, just take a drink of this." And a little sip here, and a little sip there, and he got really intoxicated. And on his road home, there'd come a snow of about six inches. And--and his little boy was following him. He couldn't pack him; he was too drunk. And he was on his road home, and he happened to turn around and noticed his little boy just almost wallowing in the snow. And he said, "Son, why are you wallowing in the snow?"

He said, "**DADDY, I'M TRYING TO FOLLOW YOUR FOOTSTEPS.**"

And he picked the little lad up in his arms and said, "God, from this day on, I'll never take another drink."

WMB Quotes :

1. You know, the walk that we make makes an example for others. It really is. WMB
2. Somebody's going to follow your footsteps. Let's walk that straight line from the cradle to Calvary. That's the footsteps let's have them to walk in.

**WMB**

## **WE OUGHT BE A GOOD EXAMPLE AND A GOOD INFLUENCE**

### **(AN EXAMPLE IS A PERSON WHOM WE FOLLOW.)**

This father wanted to have a great time with his friends during Christmas time. And at Christmas time, many people want to be merry and enjoy themselves. But when this father had had too many a drink, he was so drunk, he couldn't even carry his little boy home. Neither could he walk a straight line.

It was snowing that night and on their way home, this dad turned round, looking back at his son he saw him staggering and stumbling and lurching in the snow, while trying to keep up with him. He asked the boy what he was doing. Why was he walking like that? To which the boy

replied I am trying to follow your footsteps, Dad! This boy was trying to do exactly what his father was doing. He was trying to imitate his father. How? By striding in his father's footsteps.

The father then stopped wrapped the little fellow in his arms and made **A VERY IMPORTANT DECISION. FROM THIS DAY, HE SAID TO THE LORD, I WILL NEVER TAKE ANOTHER DRINK!** He realized his example was poor. His guidance was poor and his son was following his poor behaviour. He needed to put forth a better example for his son to copy. He realized his influence on his young son was important.

**HERE THE FATHER REALIZED HIS WRONG AND MADE A PROMISE TO SET A BETTER EXAMPLE FOR HIS SON TO FOLLOW.**

### **GOOD PARENTS:**

**WE THANK GOD FOR GOOD PARENTS.** As children we follow our parents in everything. We watch our parents and we copy what they do. By their lives we learn to obey, to love and respect them and other people. We therefore become obedient and respectful individuals. We also learn to be decent in our behavior. These are the principles of a good exemplary life. Our parents help us to prepare for life later on. So we could also be a good example for others to follow.

### **GOOD CHILDREN:**

And we, as **CHILDREN SHOULD ALSO ALWAYS WATCH WHAT WE DO AND WHAT WE SAY.** Somebody is watching us. There are eyes watching you. There is always somebody watching you. **Somebody will copy what you do.**

### **CHRISTIANS**

**And we, as Christians, should always watch what we do and what say, that we're perfectly honest to every man.** And you, if you can't be honest with your fellow man, you certainly won't be honest with God. **So how we serve God, is, we serve each other.** As honest as I would be with you, that's as honest as I'll be with God. And that's the same way with you to me. We must be honest with each other in all of our dealings.

And somebody is watching us. You may not think that, but there is eyes watching you. And **your life is influencing somebody.** Maybe it's a little child, and that child may grow up to be another Finney, or Moody, or so forth. We don't know. But your--your life is influencing someone. **WMB**

**QUESTION & ANSWERS:** See how many good points you can remember from the text above.

Points to remember:

- 1) Our parents are there to lead and guide us;
- 2) We should always follow their good example;
- 3) As children and Christians we should watch what we do and say;
- 4) We should be perfectly honest in all our dealings;
- 5) There are eyes watching us;
- 6) Somebody is going to copy what we do;
- 7) By our example we are influencing others.
- 8) Those that we follow in life are our examples. E.g. good parents ;....friends and not bad friends.
- 10) We show our love for our parents: By obeying them and following their good example;
- 11) Therefore we should always.....**BE A GOOD EXAMPLE! AND A GOOD INFLUENCE!**

SCRIPTURES TO LEARN AND READ:

EPHESIANS 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

I CORINTHIANS 4:16

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Follow me as I follow Christ (Apostle Paul speaking)

I CORINTHIANS 11:1

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. (Apostle Paul speaking)

**FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTPRINTS.....sketch by Lizzy Beckett**



## **7. THE CHOICES WE MAKE ARE IMPORTANT**

### **The Story John, the Baptist..... HIS CHOICE IN LIFE**

**LET'S SEE WHAT type of man John was. ... And the office he had to fulfil.**

In Israel an old couple, Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth, who was barren (couldn't have children) prayed earnestly for a son. When Zacharias who was a priest, went to the temple church one day, he had a visitation from the Angel Gabriel. The Angel told him that his wife would conceive and bare a son and they will call him John. Zacharias did not believe the Angel... saying how would this be, seeing we are old people? He doubted the Angel's Message and because of this unbelief, the Angel told him that he would be dumb (wouldn't be able to speak) until the birth of his son.

The important message of the Angel Gabriel was that this son (John) would one day introduce the Coming Messiah.

The Christ /Messiah was expected to one day come to the Jewish nation. Only a few faithful was at that time looking for him.

John from an early age learnt that he was to introduce (point out) who, the long awaited Messiah would be. He did not know the Messiah to point Him out. He had to find out how to identify Him.

Now, notice that Zacharias and Elisabeth, as they were well-stricken in age, they knew that they would not be able to live out the span of life, long enough to see their son, what God had for him in store. But they knowed that God was with him, because the Holy Spirit had promised that promise, and they knowed God would take care of their son. Now, according to the history there, they died when he was about nine years old.

Now, it looked like that John, being out of the home of a priest, that he being a religious man, **and knowing there was a call in his life, he would have went right straight down to the school and become a priest like his father.** Now, that would have been the natural run of thought.

When a boy gets a call in his life, the first thing they think about is run over to the seminary somewhere, see, run to the school or something on that order, wait till you get your degrees, and so forth, before you preach.

Let us see what **JOHN'S CHOICE** was .....

And, now, **John did just vice versa to that,** instead of going to the school that his father came out of. **He knew there was a call in his life.** And he knew that he was to **...HE WAS TO INTRODUCE, TO THE WORLD, THE MESSIAH, BECAUSE HE WAS TO GO BEFORE HIM.** **And** there couldn't be a mistake in it.

**Now, that's an important office.. It's truly introducing, to the people, the Messiah.**

So he knowed that if he went down to the school, that every man would have a different idea about it, and it would only cause confusion.

## **ALONE WITH GOD..FROM AGE OF NINE**

**But** John, **at the age of nine years old,** went to the wilderness, **to be alone with God,** so that he would not make a mistake. **He wanted to know what this Messiah would be, how he would find Him, what He would look like, so that he could introduce Him.**

And we find that, instead of going to take all of his degrees and come up as a priest as his father was, and follow in the footsteps of his father--father, he went as far away from the school as he could go, plumb out into the wilderness, ALONE WITH GOD.

I have nothing against the schools. I have nothing against that at all. They're very fine. But sometimes, after you have got your degree in schools, you still have to go out in the wilderness somewhere, to find the will of God. That's right. It is true.

Why did God take John the Baptist, as I was just speaking of, instead of His well-trained priests of that day? He took a man that never went to school a day in his life. So we understand that John went into the wilderness, the age of nine years old, and was

**ALONE WITH GOD.**

### SOME NOTES ON DIFFERENT OFFICES

**A PROPHET** speaks for God to the people: He brings an important Message. He is God's Voice.

**A PRIEST** speaks to God for the people. He brings offerings, thanks offerings and sacrifices to God.

**A KING** is over the people. He rules the people.

### QUESTIONS: .....AND ANSWERS BELOW:

1. Who was John, the Baptist? A prophet, Priest or a king?
2. What office did his father have?
3. Did John go into the seminary... or college/ academy / school to become a priest?
4. Why did he choose to be different and take an opposite way to what was the norm in his day & to not become a priest?..... Give some reasons. (Refer to the text/ story)
5. Where did he choose to go?
6. Is that a place where there were a lot of people? Or schools?



7. How would you describe what a wilderness is like? Fill in the words (Plenty; very little; no one; no; wild; very few; dry )

A wilderness is a place where ..... people lived; ....., ..... travelled through and there were ....., .....precious water. It is wild and .....land.

8. How old was John when he went into the wilderness; and after which event?

9. What did John want to do in the wilderness. A: He wanted to be..A..... with..... and he wanted to find the W..... of God.

10. Which prophet prophesied about him 713 years before he was born?

11. What DID this prophet call him? (Refer to 3:3, Mark 1:2-3, Luke 3:-4 and John 1:23, Isaiah 40:3)

12. What was he to do? A: John was to pr.....the .....of the Lord. {&point him out to the people

13. What did John say when he saw Jesus on the banks of the Jordan River.

14. How did John know who the Messiah was, since he had to identify (point out) who he was?

15. How old was John when he came out of the wilderness to bring His important Message?

16. The Spirit of God came on Jesus in the form of which bird?

**ANSWERS:**

1. A Prophet
  2. John's father was a Priest
  3. No! He stayed far away from the schools or the seminary.
  4. Refer to the story..... there are different reasons. he knew everyone in the schools would have a different answer or opinion to things. They would not be able to tell him how to know who the Messiah was.....
  5. His choice was to go to the wilderness .....to seek God.
  6. No... it was far away from schools and seminaries.
  7. (Fill in the words below: . Plenty; very little; no ; none; wild ; very few ; dry
- A wilderness is a place where ..... people live; .. people travel through and there were ....., .....precious water. It is ..... and dry country-land.
8. He went into the wilderness when he was nine years old, when his parents died.
  9. What did John want to do in the wilderness? A: To be .....with God! And To find the will of God!
  10. The prophet Isaiah
  - 11.. (I am ) The Voice of One crying in the wilderness..... Isaiah 40:3)
  12. John was to prepare the way of the Lord..... to introduce to the people the Messiah.
  13. Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the World!!!
  14. John did not know who the Messiah was. He said i knew Him not... but in the wilderness it was revealed to him.....that on Whom you see the spirit of God descending . John 1:32-33
  15. Thirty years old
  16. The Spirit descended on Jesus in the form of a dove.

Read and memorize /**LEARN THE SCRIPTURES.**

ISAIAH 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God

**MARK 1:3** The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

**JOHN 1:23** He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

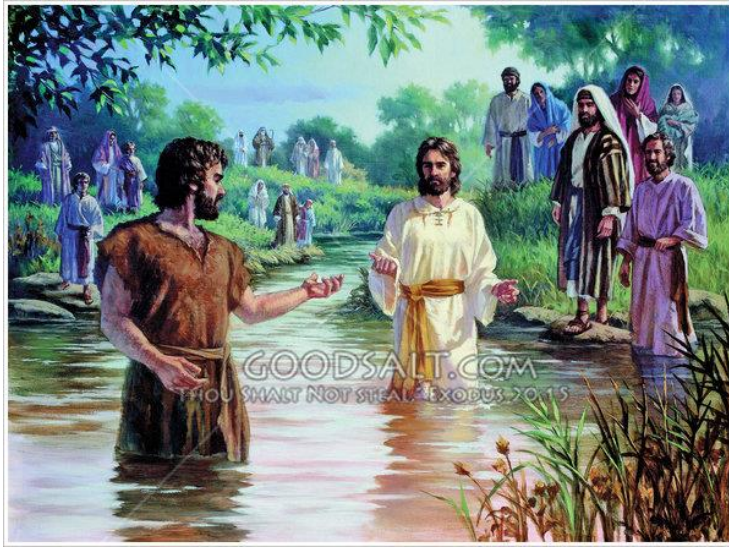
**JOHN 1:29-----**

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.



**THE END**