

Harmony of the Gospels
Part 9
“It Takes Time To Prepare a Servant”

In large part, what makes a piece of art of such great value, is time...

Over the long process of time, the art becomes more and more valuable, and brings a much higher price...

A famous art collector was walking through the city when he notices a mangy old cat lapping up milk from a saucer in the doorway of a store.

He notices that the saucer the cat is licking the milk from is **very old and very valuable**...

It is valuable because it has been around so long and been through so many generations.

Trying to not let his enthusiasm be discovered by the shop owner, he walks casually into the store and offers to buy the cat for two dollars.

The store owner replies, ***"I'm sorry, but the cat isn't for sale."***

The collector says, *"Please, I need a hungry cat around the house to catch mice. I'll pay you twenty dollars for that cat."* And the owner says **"Sold,"** and hands over the cat.

The collector continues, *"Hey, for the twenty bucks I wonder if you could throw in that old saucer. The cat's used to it and it'll save me from having to get a dish."*

To which the owner says, ***"Sorry buddy, but that's my lucky saucer. So far this week I've sold 68 cats."***

The value of things that increases over the process of time...

Did you know that every trial and trouble you go through, you become more and more valuable...?

To the Lord, and to each one of us.

- ☞ **It is all of the trials that you go through** that has made you the person that you are today.
- ☞ **You have been trained** by those trials, heartbreaks and difficulties.
- ☞ **You are much more patient** that you were the day you were born.

- ☞ **It is a good thing** that you were not born **6 foot tall and 200 pounds**, because you would have beaten your mother to death for not feeding you quick enough!

I'm serious, did you even consider how wise the Lord was to make us as helpless infants when we are born?

- ☞ **Because a baby is** "Self centered", they want what they want, and they want it right now.
- ☞ **And when they don't get it**, they whale and cry and throw a fit.
- ☞ **You have see a baby's face** so red it is about to pop.
- ☞ **Holding it's breath** till you think it will suffocate.
- ☞ **Do you know why** babies do that?
- ☞ **It's mad at you**, it wants something and you are not giving it fast enough.



But over the process of time in your life, **you learn not to kill people when they don't meet your expectations**...well most of us... the rest are in prisons...

The preparation of a true servant of the Most High God, takes a lot of time, a lot of trials, a lot of heart ache...

Hebrews 5:8

Though Jesus was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered

What kinds of things did Jesus suffer? This study this morning in the Harmony of the Gospels part 9, will show us the beginning of Jesus suffering, that prepared Him to go to the Cross, and that made Him a servant that the Father could use...

"Did you now that the Father prepares great men and women for Great things, by Great times of suffering?"

This morning we will be examining the beginning of the ministry if Jesus in 56 verses through all the 4 of the Gospels.

1. **Jesus is baptized** at the Jordan river.
2. **Jesus goes** into the desert to be tested.
3. **Jesus calls** his first disciples to follow him.

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him

- ☞ **Here in verse 13 of Matthew chapter 3**, Jesus comes to John the Baptist to be baptized in the Jordan river.
- ☞ **You remember the story of Moses**, that he was the deliverer of the Jewish people from their bondage as slaves in Egypt for 400 years.

In Deuteronomy 18:15 Moses prophesied that the “Lord would raise up a prophet like Moses from among the Jewish people”, He would be their promised messiah.

Deuteronomy 18:15

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

When the Scribes and the Pharisees came to John the Baptist to find out who he was and why he was wearing that stinky camel hair, eating bugs and baptizing in the Jordan river, notice what they asked him:

John 1:21

And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “**Are you the Prophet?**” And he answered, “No

They wanted to know if John the Baptist was “**The Prophet**” that Moses said would come...”

- ☞ **So, they were expecting** “*A Deliverer*” to come.
- ☞ **Jesus just didn’t meet their expectations** for the kind of Savior they wanted.
- ☞ **People today** will not accept Jesus offer of Forgiveness, because He doesn’t meet their expectations.
- ☞ **Jesus requires a total surrender of your life to Him**, and many people don’t want to surrender their lives to anyone.

Jesus became the fulfillment of this prophesy in Deuteronomy 18, as Moses and Jesus both came to “**Set people free**”.

- ☞ **Moses rushed into his call by God** as the deliverer without allowing the Lord time to first prepare him.
- ☞ **In exodus 2:11**, Moses sees the bondage of the Jewish people and witnesses an Egyptian beating a Hebrew slave.

Exodus 2:11

Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

- ☞ **Moses kills the Egyptian** and hid him in the sand.
- ☞ **As a result of beginning to serve the Lord in the flesh** instead of the Spirit, the Lord placed Moses into the desert for **40 more years where he learned how to be a servant**.

The Lord wants to use each one of you to reach people with the message that Jesus is the Only Savior of the world.

- ☞ **But Jesus cannot use people** who are full of themselves.
- ☞ **He uses servants**, humble men and women who will submit their lives to Him
- ☞ **Servants who humbly** serve the people here in this church.
- ☞ **Not those** who come with their own agenda, but those who will submit their self to others in spiritual authority, and learn to be a servant also.

Matthew 20:25-26

25 But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

26 Yet **it shall not be so among you**; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant

Moses had to be humbled by 40 years of living in the desert.

- ☞ **The first 40 years of Moses life**, he learned to be mighty and powerful in the world as the son of Pharaoh.
- ☞ **The second 40 years of Moses life**, he was emptied in the desert and learned to be nothing.
- ☞ **It was then that he was usable by the Lord**, the next 40 years he became one of the greatest servants in the Bible.

You are either in the time of your life where you think you are something, the time of your life when you are being emptied of everything, or the time of your life when the Lord can finally use you.

- ☞ **Which stage** are you in this morning?
1. **Being lifted** up in the flesh.
 2. **Being emptied** of the flesh.
 3. **Being used** by the Spirit.

“It takes Time to prepare a Servant of the Most High God”

- ☞ **Here in Matthew chapter 3** Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, “*One greater than Moses*” spends his first 30 years **without even being noticed**, in a tiny town that no one thought anything good could come from, “Nazareth”, allowing himself to be prepared by the father to be our redeemer.

Here many of you are this morning, in a tiny little high desert town, where people say all of time, “*Nothing good can come from Winslow...*”

- ☞ **And you** also are being prepared.
- ☞ **You are being emptied** of your self will.

- ☞ **You are learning to trust the Lord**, when you have nothing.
- ☞ **Learning that He** can do anything.
- ☞ **That the life He has called you to** is to SERVE, not be Served.

Matthew 3:13-17

- 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"
15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.



Luke 3:21-23

- 21 NOTICE: After all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

What is the first thing that Jesus does when He begins His ministry? He comes and submits His life to someone who is already serving the Lord and being used by Him.

- ☞ **In Matthew 3:13**, notice that it does not say that Jesus waited for everyone else to come and be baptized first.
- ☞ **Here in Luke 3:21**, we learn some additional facts that Matthew didn't tell us: Jesus waited for all of the others to be finished being Baptized, before he came to John to be baptized.
- ☞ **This is the benefits** of studying all 4 gospels at the same time, we learn additional facts about Jesus life.
- ☞ **Is it important** that Jesus waited for everyone else to come and be baptizes before He came? ABSOLUTELY...

Jesus did not want to be just a part of the crowd, because He was sinless, He was unique, there has never been anyone else like Jesus before, or ever will be again.

- ☞ **This is why** we don't follow a church or a man or religious leader.
- ☞ **Only Jesus** was born WITHOUT SIN, and lived a perfect life, Only Jesus is the Living God in human flesh, only Jesus died for us and paid the debt we owed, then proved all of it, by raising Himself from the dead.

When Jesus came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, April 6th 32 A. D., He Jesus rode a donkey that no one had ever sat upon (Luke 19:30)

- ☞ **Jesus was placed in a tomb** that **no man had ever been laid in before** (John 19:41).
- ☞ **No one had ever spoke** the things that Jesus spoke before.

John 7:46

The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

- ⊕ **No one had ever laid down their life** for people who would never accept Him or love Him, like Jesus did.
- ⊕ **No one ever rose from the dead** in all of human history.
- ⊕ **This is a theme of Jesus life, He is unique.**

Luke 3:22-23

22 And **the Holy Spirit** descended in bodily form like a dove upon **Jesus**, and **a voice came from heaven** which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,



Now if you are really paying attention here...you noticed something absolutely amazing...

- ⊕ **Jesus** standing in the Jordan River, THE SON.
- ⊕ **The voice** from Heaven, THE FATHER.
- ⊕ **The Holy Spirit** descending upon Jesus in **Bodily form**, THE HOLY SPIRIT.

All three of the Trinity **present at the same time**, the same place, all working together for the same purpose, all three individual beings, speaking, moving acting.

- ⊕ **There is no clearer place in the Bible** to show the reality of the existence of the Trinity than right here.

Matthew 3

23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry **at about thirty years of age**, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli

Every Jewish male had to wait until he was 30 years old before he could enter the ministry as a "Priest" of God

- ⊕ **Remember** that John the Baptist was 6 months older than Jesus. He had been here at the Jordan river 6 months before Jesus comes preparing the hearts of the people for Jesus to come.

Matthew 3:14

"and John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?"

- ⊕ **This statement by John** was one of shock and disbelief...
- ⊕ **In The Greek Language:** "**Ego—Hupo—Sou—Kai.**"
- ⊕ "*What! shall the master come for baptism to the servant?*"
- ⊕ **Jesus is without sin** and yet, He is coming to John a sinner to be baptized, this doesn't make sense to John.

Jesus is seeking to fulfill every requirement of the law, so that He completely pleased God and was qualified to be our savior.

- ☞ **I think** that we don't teach enough on the fact that **Jesus was taking our place at the Judgment.**
- ☞ **All of the Old Testament sacrifices** of animals taking the place of judgment for human beings, was teaching us that it is possible for one who is innocent, to take the place of one who is guilty.
- ☞ **When Jesus came to the earth** as a human being, He was coming to pay the price that we owed to God for our own breaking of His law.

Ezekiel 18:20

The soul who sins shall die...

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through Adam sin entered the world, and death through Adams sin, and thus death spread to all men, **because all sinned**

So, if Jesus was going to take our place at the judgment and be able to save us, He would have to live His entire life without one sin.

- ☞ **If Jesus had sinned just one time** in all of His 33 ½ years on earth as a man, He would have been disqualified from saving us.
- ☞ **Do you have any idea** how unbelievable that is?
- ☞ **I can't go a single hour** without sinning some how, in thought or attitude...
- ☞ **How about you?**

After a two-week criminal trial in a very high profile bank robbery case, the judge turns to the jury foreman and asks, "**Has the jury reached a verdict in this case?**"

"*Yes, we have, your honor,*" The foreman responded.

"**Would you please pass it to me,**" The judge declared, as he motioned for the bailiff to retrieve the verdict slip from the foreman and deliver it to him.

After the judge reads the verdict himself, he delivers the verdict slip back to his bailiff to be returned to the foreman and instructs the foreman, "**Please read your verdict to the court.**"

"*We find the defendant Not Guilty of all four counts of bank robbery,*" stated the foreman.

The family and friends of the defendant jump for joy at the verdict and hug each other as they shout expressions of divine gratitude.

The man's attorney turns to his client and asks, "*So, what do you think about that?*"

The defendant, with a bewildered look on his face, turns to his attorney and asks, "**Well, does that mean I can keep the money, or do I have to give it back?**"

Isn't that how it is with us?

- ☞ **Every one of us is guilty of breaking Gods law**, we know it, we don't have to have anyone try to convince us of it.
- ☞ **And yet**, Jesus came and paid the price we owed, He stood in our place at the judgment.
- ☞ **And even after the verdict is read** and we are found "Not Guilty", because of Jesus sacrifice for us, **we want to know if we can keep on living the way we want to, instead of begin to live just for Jesus.**

Listen to me, If Jesus had not come as a Baby, grown into a man, and not sinned a single time, in 33 ½ years, there would be no hope for any of us here today.

- ☞ **All of us would be lost**, with no hope of heaven or eternal life.
- ☞ **We would all be under a death sentence**, and there is nothing we could do about it.
- ☞ **Think about it**, there are angels that sinned against the Lord also, and **they know that there is no plan of salvation for them.**
- ☞ **They know** that they are sentenced to hell forever.

When Jesus came face to face with a group of demons, which are disembodied angels, notice what they said to Jesus:

Matthew 8:29

And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? **Have You come here to torment us before the time?**"

They understand that they are under and eternal death sentence, that cannot be changed, all they wanted to know from Jesus, is whether or not He was going to send them there now, before the time that has been appointed by God, at the end of the world.

Listen to me...If the Lord was not merciful, full of lovingkindness, and patience towards us, He would have just told us, like He told the angels, "Tough Luck, you knew the rules, you broke them, now you are going to pay the consequences."

He could have just as easily wiped us off the earth and been done with us, and no one would be able to protest it.

But He didn't do that did He? He chose all of us to be the One single example of How great the Love of God is.

1 John 4:9

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him

Ephesians 2:7

that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus

1 Peter 1:12

To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Listen, He gave us His **66 Books written by 40 authors**, to reveal his love to us.

- ⊕ **66 Books**, 6 is the number of a human being, it is once less than 7 the number of completion.
- ⊕ **Man's the number 6** because **he is not complete**, he comes up short, he is a sinner.
- ⊕ **So God gives man 66 books**, that reveal His love.

By 40 authors, **40 is the number of Judgment.**

- ⊕ **Gods judgment on sins** came though the message of other men in the Bible.
- ⊕ **66/40**, and you though the Bible just happen to be the way that it is, that it is just written by man.
- ⊕ **No, it is a supernatural document** from outside of time, a love letter from the creator of how he chose only us out of all creation to show how great His love is.

Jesus had to live a perfect life, every day of His life, or we would not have a chance.

- ⊕ **The reason** that Jesus has the capacity to pay for the sins of every person who has been born for all time, is because of the value of His life.
- ⊕ **The Bible says** that Jesus is the Creator, the maker of everything that exists.

Colossians 1:16

For **by Jesus all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

How much is the life of the eternal God worth?

- ⊕ **Jesus life has Infinite Value**, therefore His life is valuable enough to pay the high cost of the sins of every person ever born and the combined sin of all people for all time.
- ⊕ **But not** if He failed one time.
- ⊕ **A second** thing we see in Jesus offering His life for us, **HOW HIGH THE COST IS FOR OUR SIN, it took the life of the Son of God to pay for it!**
- ⊕ **Now you can begin to see** how hard satan was trying to get Jesus to fail, just once.

Jesus is made ready by temptation and testing:

Matthew 4:1-11

1 then Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

Notice that it is the Holy Spirit who leads Jesus into this time of testing.

- ☞ It is important to understand where trial are coming from.
- ☞ Most of the time, they come from the Lord, for some great purpose.
- ☞ Trials are not so the Lord can see how we will perform under pressure.
- ☞ Trials are so that we can see how we will perform under pressure.
- ☞ He is God, He knows everything.
- ☞ We don't know ourselves, we think we do, but we don't.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”

What is the purpose of times of trials?

1. **To strengthen your faith and trust in the Lord.**

1 Peter 5:10

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you

2. **To produce all of the fruits of the Spirit.**

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law

James 1:3

knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience

3. **To silence the enemy.**

Job 1:9-12

9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing?”

10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

12 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD

James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

4. To Glorify Jesus through your life.

John 9:1-3

1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

John 11:1-4

1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

4 When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

5. To conform or shape us into the image of Jesus.

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son,

6. To enlarge our ministry.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

6 Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.

7 And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

7. So that we can see our sin and deal with it, and help encourage others with what we learn.

1 Peter 2:20

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.

Luke 22:24-32

24 Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.

31 And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

8. So that we can see what is really in our own heart, and so we can see if we really do love Jesus as much as we claim we do.

Genesis 22:2-12

2 Then He said, “Abraham, Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you **love**, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you...

12 ...And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me

It is interesting to me that **the very first place in the Bible where the word “Love” appears**, is here in Genesis chapter 22, where a father offers up his only son as a sacrifice.

- ☞ **Just a coincidence**, or did the Holy Spirit do this on purpose so that you would know that the Bible is the Handwriting of God.
- ☞ **So that you would understand** that the truest meaning of the Word Love is when a Father in Heaven gives up His Only Son to die for people who don't deserve it.
- ☞ **And all those who do believe it**, This Father will forgive all their sins and give them Eternal life.
- ☞ **And the whole universe will know** that God is loving, and kind and just as they look at you forever and ever, you are an example of how great his love is.

Having a hard time in your life? You are the object of the Love of God.

- ☞ **He will not allow you** to be destroyed.
- ☞ **You are the reason** He gave Jesus in the first place.
- ☞ **This trial will prepare you** for all the Good things the Lord wants to do in your life.
- ☞ **And Jesus suffered too**, so that today you would have a chance at heaven, so live for Jesus, He paid a very High cost for your life.

Next Sunday we will look at all that Jesus went through when he was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tested...