

# GOD'S VISION

## LIGHT AND LIFE AND LOVE MINISTRY



### Jesus Calms the Storm

The people loved to hear Jesus speak. Sometimes huge crowds gathered to hear him. Once he was preaching by the Sea of Galilee and so many people crowded around that he got in the boat and preached to the people who were standing on the shore.

At the end of the day Jesus and his disciples said goodbye to the people and then sailed the boat out into the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was so tired that he got a cushion for a bed and then fell asleep.

Some of the other men on the boat were fishermen. They knew all about sailing on a boat. They were happy that the water was nice and calm and peaceful. They could relax. But soon things began to change. The wind began to blow and the waves pushed the boat around. Soon it all turned into a very bad storm. The waves became so big that they were filling the boat with water.

During all of the excitement there was only one person on the boat who was not worried. Guess who that was? Jesus! He was not worried because he was fast asleep.

The storm became so violent that the men began to think that the boat would sink. They thought they might all drown. They woke Jesus up and told him that they were going to drown.

Jesus saw the storm but he was not afraid at all. He looked at the waves and the water and said, "Quiet, be still!" And guess what? The storm stopped. The water became calm and the wind stopped blowing.

Jesus looked at the disciples and said, "Why are you so afraid? Where is your faith?"

The disciples were amazed. They knew that Jesus was very special. Jesus was the only one who could make even a storm obey him.

Storms are very strong but Jesus can even make storms stop. Jesus is the Son of God.

### Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Have you ever had a sore or rash on your skin? You might have put cream or powder on it to make it go away. Sometimes the rash or sore might just go away by the next day.

In the times of Jesus' ministry people sometimes got sores or a rash that would not go away. No matter what kind of medicine the person used, they did not get better. Sometimes the sores would get so bad that the person would die. This was called leprosy. People with leprosy could not get close to anyone else in case others got leprosy too. People with leprosy could not hug anyone or eat with anyone. They had to live away from the city. They could only be with other people who had leprosy.

Once there were ten men who had leprosy. They did not live in a city. They had to stay away from everyone. They must have been very sad. The ten lepers had heard about Jesus. They heard that Jesus could make people well. The problem was that the men could not just walk up to Jesus because they did not want Jesus to get leprosy, too. Instead, they waited on the road for Jesus to walk by. When they saw Jesus coming towards them they called out to him before he got too close. The ten lepers said, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Jesus must have been very sad to see these men. They would have had sores and some of them might have even had leprosy so long that their toes or fingers might have rotted off. The lepers probably even stunk. Some people might have just wanted to run away from the men. But Jesus did not run away from them. He made them better instead. Jesus made all the leprosy disappear!

The men were so happy! They could hardly believe it when they looked at their healthy skin. Now they could go and be with their friends. Now they could go and give their families a great big hug.

Jesus told the men to go to the priest and show him that the leprosy was gone. The priest would have a special ceremony and the men would get permission to go back to the city where the other people lived. The ten lepers were so happy that they rushed off to find the priest.

Most of these ten lepers were Jewish men like Jesus and the apostles were but one of the lepers was a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritan Jews did not like each other very much. The Jews thought the Samaritans were not very good people. They thought they were better than the Samaritans. But as the ten men rushed away one man, a Samaritan, stopped and began walking back to Jesus. He wanted to say "thank you" for what Jesus had done.

The Samaritan was so thankful that Jesus had healed him that he threw himself down by Jesus' feet and kept saying "thank you". Others thought that Samaritans were not good but Jesus knew that this man had a good heart full of faith. After all, the other nine just went on their way. Jesus told the man to go on ahead to the priest. He said to the man, "Go, your faith has made you well."

The man went on his way very happy and thankful.

# LIGHT AND LIFE AND LOVE MINISTRY

## Everyone Belongs with God

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God is great!, Nothing and no one can take that greatness away from him.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ~ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



## Inspirational Bible Verses

Job damns the day he was born, relating life and death to light and darkness. He hopes that his birth had been obscured in darkness and desires to have never been born, believing that life only increases his suffering. Eliphaz replies that Job, who has comforted other people, now reveals that he never actually knew their pain. Eliphaz concludes that Job's pain must be due to some sin Job has acted, and he recommends Job to seek God's favor. Bildad and Zophar agree that Job must have performed evil to provoke God's justice and argue that he should attempt to manifest more innocent behavior. Bildad supposes that Job's children brought their deaths upon themselves. Even worse, Zophar suggests that whatever wrongdoing Job has done he likely deserves more suffering than what he has experienced.

### Story of Job in the Bible

In this Bible story from the book of Job, there is a wealthy man named Job residing in an area called Uz with his extended family and vast flocks. He is "blameless" and "upright," constantly mindful to live in a righteous manner (Job 1:1). God mentions Job to Satan saying, "There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." However, Satan contends that Job is only righteous because God has favored him generously. Satan dares God that, if given the approval to inflict suffering, Job will change and curse God. God permits Satan to abuse Job to experiment with this brazen claim, but he forbids Satan to take Job's life in the manner.

### The Tribulations of Job

Over the time of one day, Job is given four reports, each informing him that his sheep, servants, and ten children have all died due to thieving intruders or natural disasters. Job rips his clothes and shaves his head in sorrow, yet he still praises God in his prayers. Satan arrives in heaven again, and God allows him another opportunity to test Job. This time, Job is distressed with terrible skin sores. His wife urges him to denounce God and to give up and die, but Job protests, trying to endure his afflictions.

Three of Job's companions, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, arrive to comfort him, sitting with Job in silence for seven days out of reverence for his grieving. On the seventh day, Job talks, starting a discussion in which each of the four men shares his reflections on Job's troubles in poetic descriptions.

### Job Contemplates the Mystery of God

Job reacts to each of these remarks, becoming so angry that he calls his sympathizers "worthless physicians" who "whitewash [their help] with lies" (Job 13:4). He questions why God judges people by their deeds if God can just as easily change or forgive their behavior. It is confusing to Job how a human can truly satisfy God's justice as his ways are mysterious and exceed human comprehension. Furthermore, humans cannot possibly convince God with their words. God cannot be fooled, and Job confesses that he does not even know himself well enough to adequately defend his case to God. Job desires for someone who can mediate between himself and God, or be sent to Sheol, the dark space of the dead. Job believes that there is a "witness" or a "Redeemer" in heaven who will testify for his integrity (Job 16:19, Job 19:25). The suffering shows too much for Job, and he turns bitter, anxious, and scared. He deplores the injustice that God lets evil people thrive while he and many other honest people suffer. Job wants to face God and protest, but cannot physically find God. He assumes that wisdom is concealed from humans, but he decides to persevere in seeking wisdom by fearing God and evading evil.

### God Consoles Job

God eventually intervenes, commanding Job to be brave, and explains various detailed features of his creation. Overcome by the appearance of God, Job recognizes God's infinite power and accepts the constraints of his human understanding. This response pleases God, but he is upset with Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar for emitting lousy advice. Job reconciles on their behalf, and God forgives them. God then restores Job's health, granting him twice as much property as before, new children, and a remarkably long life. In the end, Job never completely gave up hope or faith in God as an inspiration to everyone enduring suffering of their own.