

The Image of Christ

Part 9

By Boyd Yahn

Hello everyone, this is April the 2nd of 2025, and this is part 9 of the Image of Christ series. Had a little bit of a hiatus here, the kids in Alberta, the grandchildren, had a week off and made a choice to come down here and spend it with Grandma and Grandpa. We are very thankful that is the case, but it does interrupt one's study in a very good way.

0:00:27

In the past study, number 8, we saw that Christ's teaching was brought about by a situation that had occurred where a man with an infirmity had been healed, and told to pick up his mattress and walk. We saw that the locals of the day, because Christ had healed on the Sabbath, felt that this was egregious, so egregious, that they wanted to kill Him.

0:00:57

When He explained that He had been working alongside the Father, that just made things worse. Let's review that; let's just take a look at that. John 5, verses 7 – 18. John 5, and we'll read verses 7 – 18.

0:01:15

We can see an acceleration of their ire with what Christ is doing, but it's important to realize the stage that was being set for Christ's later words that came about. In Verse 7.

⁷The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." ¹¹He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" ¹²Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" ¹³But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. ¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." ¹⁵The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶For this reason, the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

0:02:54

You know, referring of course, He had been working beside His father.

¹⁸Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

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0:03:08

So, it was in this setting that led to Christ's teachings in the balance of John 5. Despite the obvious peril of the situation, where the listeners wanted to kill Him, Christ used that as a platform to reveal who He was, how He came about, what He had done, and what He was going to do, and also on top of that, He told them that He was the door to eternal life; not only to them, but to all.

0:03:45

Whatever the local's concept of what God was, it was a very long way from the real one. The black letter Bible often gives us settings that, I for one and hopefully none of you, haven't stopped to consider in the ways that we possibly should. You know, we quite often pay attention to the red letters, but we don't necessarily give as much attention to the black letters and maybe that's a mistake.

0:04:23

You know, years ago now, I remember coming across a passage in scripture that I probably read countless times and just never paid any attention to it, and once I had I used it in a message in a sermon back in the day, and one person, who was much longer in that faith than myself, we're talking decades here now, not new to the faith, commented they had never seen that before, and frankly, neither had I at the time, yet it told us so much.

0:05:05

Why neither of us had given the notice or attention is an unknown. Sloppy reading, not stopping to consider, not paying attention, there wasn't time; could be any one of these, and perhaps other reasons not even thought about. But the passage I was referring to, where Pilate said in Matthew 27:18.

¹⁸For he knew (Pilate knew) that they (the religious leaders of the day) had handed Him (Christ) over (to him) because of envy.

0:05:40

Pilate, it appears, was a reader of the spiritual driver to action, what motivated people, even to murder someone who was innocent. Do the ekklesia use, look to, or consider the personal drivers in themselves and others, or should they even do that? That would require that one actually observes, and thinks. Many it seems don't want to do that.

0:06:19

Christ apparently did. So, let's look into Luke 9. Luke 9, and we'll read verses 51 – 55. The focus here will be, did Christ pay attention to the spirit driver in people? Pilate certainly did. Let's look at Luke 9, and we'll read verses 51 – 55.

⁵¹Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

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0:06:57

Speaking of Christ, of course.

⁵²and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”

0:07:32

It’s interesting to consider here, they thought they had the ability to do that if they asked, and yet:

⁵⁵But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know

This is His disciples

what manner of spirit you are of.

And spirit here is obviously referencing their mental disposition.

0:07:58

We need to be cognizant when we come across spirit, what’s it talking about? Going on, Christ said:

⁵⁶For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” And they went to another village.

0:08:16

So, Christ was very aware of the spirit that His disciples were walking under. If Christ paid attention to what spirit or mental disposition folks were of, should those being made over in His image do the same? Notice again, Christ’s activity. Matthew 9; Matthew 9, and we’ll read verses 1 – 6.

¹ So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. ²Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” ³And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

0:09:11

You notice that the Scribes and the Pharisees of the day, had a critical spirit. Who do you think that comes from?

⁴But Jesus, knowing their thoughts,

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Well, that's interesting, did God give Him the capacity to know those thoughts, is that how that went down? Or did He pay attention to their attitude? What was it that caused them to know their thoughts?

said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

0:09:50

So, not only did He know what their thoughts were, he identified it as evil. Do we identify thoughts that are evil in ourselves and others? Do we do that?

⁵For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

0:10:26

With this in mind, let's take a look at an interesting passage recorded for us in Luke 6. Let's go to Luke 6, and we want to read up to verse 19, and comment along the way.

¹ Now it happened on the second Sabbath

This is Luke 6:1.

after the first that He went through the grain fields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands. ²And some of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"

0:11:09

Here you have the Son of God, who every time, without exception, always does the will of the Father, and these folks, in their estimation of who and what God is, are critical of His behavior.

³But Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:⁴how he went into the House of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?"

0:11:46

Just notice Christ responding to the situation He was actually in.

⁵And He said to them, "The Son of Man (referring to Himself) is also Lord of the Sabbath."

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If anyone should know what can and cannot be done on the Sabbath it would be the Lord of the Sabbath, would it not?

⁶Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.

0:12:45

Again, we see here a critical spirit, obviously born of ignorance, and the attachment to another god who would not do this, seeking an opportunity to get at Him.

⁸But He knew their thoughts,

Well, there you go. Was He given that? Did He pay attention to their actions, how was He able to do that?

⁸But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, "Arise and stand here." And he arose and stood. ⁹Then Jesus said to them,

0:13:33

The ones who He knew their thoughts. They were leering at Him, looking to accuse Him.

"I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?" ¹⁰And when He had looked around at them all,

They never said a word. They were out to get Him; He knew that. And isn't that always the way when you are in a situation where nobody has the courage to make a statement, and yet they will listen to you all day long, with the intention of getting you, even though they were clueless. Have you ever had that actually occur?

0:14:25

So, in this situation.

¹⁰And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. ¹¹But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

0:14:50

Notice, there was no direct contact with Him; they discussed among themselves, they had no answers, but they were going to get Him. Whose spirit do we think that actually is? Did Christ know what spirit they were of?

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¹²Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:¹⁴Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew;¹⁵Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot;¹⁶Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

0:15:47

He wasn't one at the time, he became one.

¹⁷And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, ¹⁸as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed.

0:16:14

So, this appears to be quite a production if you can imagine the setting that we're looking at here. And if a group of people were out to get Him, and He's coming down here and multitudes follow Him, and notice in verse 19.

¹⁹And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

0:16:43

How many human beings do you know, where power flows out of them to heal somebody? No human, that I'm aware of has that ability, at least at this physical level. It needs to be sourced from somewhere. And we notice that power is flowing from Christ to heal these people, who simply went and touched Him.

0:17:22

He didn't analyze what was wrong with them, they touched Him, and they were healed; that is the dynamic. So, if no human has the ability to have power flow from them to heal somebody. This can lead us to look a little deeper. It might lead us to a statement of Christ that has been a little more than foggy for me. Let's try and get rid of some of that fog when we actually look at this.

0:18:05

Let's go to John 14; John 14, and we'll read verses 9 – 11. This is not an unfamiliar passage to us by any means, but let's look at that.

⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The

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words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

0:18:59

So, Christ tells us here that it is the Father's presence in Him that does the works. As we saw in Luke, people came up and touched Christ; who did the healing? It was God the Father. That power from the Father, who dwelt in Christ flowed out of Him to do the various healings that were done. We are shown the dynamic of how that actually works there, and it's very useful, I think, to consider.

0:19:36

We can see a repetition of the same thing in John 10, verses 37 and 38. Where Christ said:

³⁷If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works,

Well, why?

that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

0:20:06

If we go back and look at John 14:10 specifically. I'm going to read that from the New International Version and the New Living Translation, because I think it adds a level of clarity. In the NIV it says:

Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

And in the New Living Translation it says:

Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

0:21:02

So, He's explaining the relationship of how the Father and Christ actually work together. Power flows from the Father, who dwells in Christ, out to accomplish whatever goal they're about to do.

0:21:24

We can now tie that in; we've had these dots for a long time, and maybe it's time that we should start joining them. Let's go to Acts 2:22 where Peter obviously understood this, He said:

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22“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by (the) God to you

The Father was doing miracles through Him.

by miracles, wonders, and signs which (the) God (Yehovah) did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

0:22:06

So, we can begin to see how this actually works, possibly in a much clearer way than we have before. Power from the Father, who literally dwelt in Christ, accomplished the miracles that occurred during Christ's physical tenure on the earth. We can see the same dynamic exactly in the woman who had the issue of blood.

0:22:37

We go to Luke 8; Luke 8, and we'll read that again, we've used it before, but I think it's instructive in this case. Luke 8, verses 43 – 47, where we can see the exact same process.

43Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

45And Jesus said, “Who touched Me?” When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’” 46But Jesus said, “Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.”

0:23:35

And we saw the exact same thing, where power was leaving Christ to heal all those people, and all of that power flowed from God the Father, who dwelt in Him. You know, sometimes looking at the black letters can give us clues and insight into how this actually works. The same power that flowed from the Father, dwelling in Christ, was used to create all that is.

0:24:13

I believe we can now understand how Yehovah repeatedly says He alone created all. His choice to involve Christ in this way was His alone to make, and He made it. The Father chose to dwell in Christ, and to make everything that was to be done; everything that was to be created.

0:24:41

An answer was always there, and perhaps we simply did not see it, or join the dots we've always had, but didn't think it through. If we return to Luke 6, we can see that while the throng were coming forth and touching Christ, He looked at His disciples and

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began to teach them and the multitudes there. So, let's pick it up in Luke 6 and verse 39 and we'll read through verse 46.

³⁹*And He (Christ) spoke a parable to them:*

0:25:23

This is to the multitudes and to His disciples.

"Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? ⁴⁰A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

Are we not being make over in the image of Christ? Are we not being perfectly trained if we listen to what Christ actually says? What do you actually think about that? Christ, as their teacher, lays out the program in the following remainder of that particular passage here in Luke.

⁴¹*And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?*

0:26:27

It's, hey, ya got a ways to go.

⁴²*Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite!*

Was Christ able to see the planks in the eyes of His yet disciples? Do you suppose that would be possible?

First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

0:27:02

You've got a ways to go.

⁴³*For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.*

Do you suppose that Christ was able to tell who the bad trees and who the good trees were, and maybe all of them had some ways to go?

⁴⁴*For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil.*

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0:27:44

So, He's pointing out some very basic principles, that if you or anybody wants to become a good tree, then good things start to happen, and at the same time you can recognize an evil man by what comes out of his heart. Did Christ actually do those things? Well, yes! Should the ekklesia and those who are being formed in the image of Christ, should they not begin to exercise the same types of that capacity?

0:28:21

And He goes on to give them further instructions.

For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

So, Christ is then telling them how you do this. Listen to what people say, look at what people do.

⁴⁶“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

0:28:51

Is it not because there was yet evil in them all? And He goes on to say:

⁴⁷Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, ... ⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.

So, you can see where He's pointing to this, and interesting enough, if you go back to verse 40

⁴⁰A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

0:29:28

Did Christ make it rather clear who their teacher actually was? Well, yes! Matthew 23, verse 8

⁸But you,

Speaking again to the multitudes and His disciples. His teaching is consistent.

do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

0:29:58

So, there shouldn't have been any confusion in this way at all. It is why Christ is our head and our teacher. And it then follows, because Christ is at one with the Father, the Father is also a teacher to the ekklesia, and this is referenced in scripture. I think we would all know those passages, but just for pointing it out, maybe we want to begin to

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look, and when we do our own study that the Father, is in fact, a teacher as well, Why wouldn't He because Christ is exactly the same as Him in that way.

⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘

John 6:45

And they shall all be taught by God.’

0:30:46

Is God the Father a teacher? Well, hello; yes, He is.

Therefore, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

You can see this very unique and very close relationship between the Father and His Son. If we go to Hebrews 1:2 we can see exactly the same thing.

² has in these last days

0:31:09

Referring to God.

spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom

And we now, I believe, understand quite well what the scriptures say about “through whom”

also He made the worlds;

0:31:32

He didn't have that kind of a relationship with the angels, He did not work through them in that way, He worked through His Son. That's just a couple of examples, and now we can begin to look at other places where there might be something worth considering in that way.

0:31:46

With the Father dwelling in Christ the way He did, how much evil do we think was in Christ? Would Christ have a pretty fair idea what evil actually is? If Christ had no evil abiding in Him, and He was swimming in evil in the world, do you think He would recognize it, be cognizant of it?

0:32:22

If the minds of the ekklesia are being transformed into having the mind of Christ, do you think evil should become more and more obvious to the ekklesia as they grow?

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Would Christianity's celebration in December, a few months ago, be considered evil by those who participate in it? If you ask someone if they would think of that as being evil, what do you think they would answer? What do you think Christ would say about it? Would He regard that as evil? And when we see it, do we regard it as evil? Is that what we really do?

0:33:15

What was Christ's heart actually like? Are we told any place where Christ, or what Christ's heart was actually like? Well, turns out, we are. So, let's go there and go into the book of Mark, chapter 7, and we're going to read verses 14 – 23.

¹⁴When He (Christ) had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. ¹⁶If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"

0:34:17

So, here we have the teacher teaching, and His disciples have no clue what He was talking about. We can see that, you know, it's setting the text, setting the situation in place.

¹⁷When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable.

0:34:38

Like, we don't get it.

¹⁸So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him,

It almost seems like Christ was a little bit surprised that they couldn't see that.

¹⁹because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" ²⁰And He said,

0:35:15

So, here the teacher teaches then, the disciples.

"What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

Was Christ in any way defiled? And then He goes on to teach.

²¹For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²²thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil

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eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³*All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*

That's quite a list.

0:36:12

Does the world around us recognize these things as evil? Do they care, even if it is? If one's heart had none of these things, would he have the capacity to see the hearts of others who did? Christ's heart was pure, and had none of those things. Can you even imagine that?

0:36:51

Would we instinctively recognize those things as evil? When you look at the flood account, the thoughts of men's hearts were only evil continually; we now know what filled their minds. If we, the ekklesia, had a pure heart today, and had none of these things within us, would we be able to see the evil a little clearer? And yet, are we not told to be transformed by the renewing of our minds?

0:37:46

Are we not told to have a better perception of the times in which we live? Do the ekklesia really want a heart free from all this evil? When raised immortal and incorruptible, the ekklesia will be in the image of Christ, having no evil as defined by our Teacher.

0:38:22

Do we show by our actions that is actually what we want? If you were God and you looked down upon people who were kind of happy with the status quo, going to the right church, those kinds of things, or somebody down there who was actually looking in their heart to see what's actually in there, is sick about it, and wants to remove that and have a pure heart, which one would you be moved to help the most? Which one would you be moved to give the greater assistance and help?

0:39:17

The Father and Christ both live in the ekklesia; they are holy Beings, who have no evil in them. Should there not be a continuous transformation from a being that was evil and didn't even know it until they would move in a direction of holiness as the commandment says, be you holy as I am holy. Can they not live in us to help us aspire to that condition. Is that something, is that how it's supposed to work? Do we really want that? Do we really want to become at one with our Father and Jesus Christ, who have no evil in them? Is that really where we want to go?

0:40:29

Notice the instruction in this area in Hebrews 5. You know, if we find ourselves stuck in a rut, in the same place, not learning anything, not growing, just going through the motions, perhaps we should consider a little more deeply. Christ was a teacher; of

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course we need to recognize that, but notice this in Hebrews 5. Let's take a look at this. (Verse 12)

¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

0:41:25

There is a danger in not progressing, and a danger in not growing from a condition of defilement to a condition of holiness.

¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use

We actually have to think.

have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

0:42:11

Was Christ able to discern good and evil? If we are to become like our Teacher, would it be unreasonable to think that we should also be able to discern good and evil. And the more we do so, would it not be a natural thing to be able to recognize evil, as defined by God, because our definition is meaningless?

0:42:45

Would we expect that to be a logical consequence of continued growth in the move to become being made over in the image of Christ? More in part 10.