

## The Story of Jesus

### (Lesson 45)

#### Introduction:

1. Growing in the knowledge of Christ is a spiritual activity that deserves our careful attention (2 Peter 3:18).
2. According to John 5:39, the Scriptures are the right source for acquiring this knowledge.
3. Jesus indicated in Mark 1:38 that He came to preach.
4. To be the Lord's true disciples and to know the truth we must "*continue*" [abide] in His Word (John 8:31-32).
5. In this lesson we are concentrating on passages that reveal the Lord's teaching concerning "love."

#### Discussion:

- I. JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO LOVE GOD (Matthew 22:35-38)
  - A. God is to be loved with all the heart, soul, and mind.
  - B. Jesus identified loving God as "*the first and great commandment.*"
  - C. Loving God in the true sense includes obeying His commandments (1 John 5:3).
- II. JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO LOVE HIM
  - A. Jesus said that we are to love Him more than anyone, including parents and children (Matthew 10:37).
  - B. True love for Christ includes obeying His commandments (John 14:15, 21, 23; 15:9-10).
- III. JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO LOVE NEIGHBORS (Matthew 22:39-40)
  - A. Jesus identified loving neighbors as the second great commandment.
  - B. Loving neighbors involves fulfilling our responsibilities to them.
    1. The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) is the practical application of loving neighbors as self.
    2. Jesus illustrated the meaning of loving neighbors in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).
- IV. JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO LOVE ENEMIES (Matthew 5:43-48)
  - A. Jesus practiced what He preached when He was:
    1. arrested (Matthew 26:51-53)
    2. crucified (Luke 23:34).
  - B. Additional instructions are given in Romans 12:17-21.
  - C. Stephen practiced the Lord's instructions (Acts 7:57-60).
- V. JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER
  - A. John 13:34-35
  - B. John 15:12-13, 17