

Evangelism

Week 4: What God Has Said (Inability)

Feb 5th Worship Center, 10:45am

**A person is able to be saved
when they believe the
truthfulness of what God has
said concerning Christ.**

The big question then is;

**What has God said concerning Christ;
must someone hear, understand and
believe in order to be saved?**

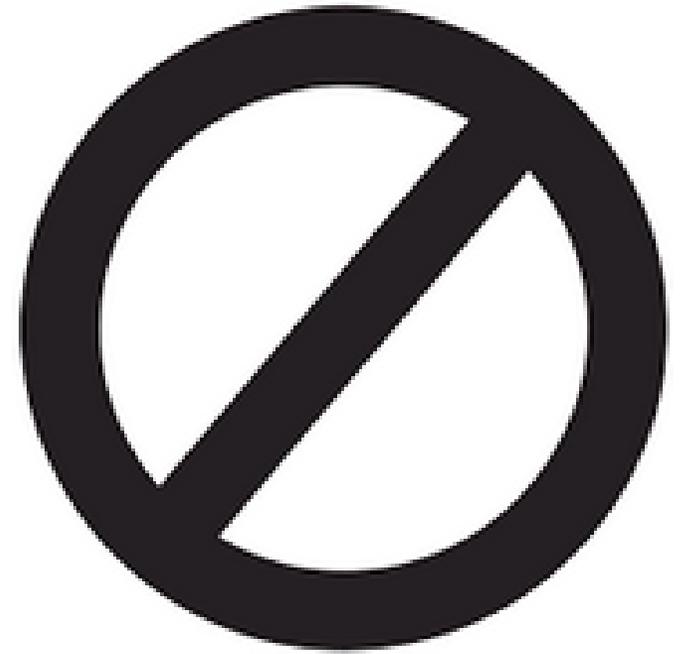
A person must believe what
God has said about...

Their sinfulness,
in relationship to
Christ.



A person must believe what
God has said about...

Their inability,
to meet the mark
of Christ.



A person must believe what
God has said about...

What God has done
for us through
Christ.



A person must believe what
God has said about...

**What God
promises to do
with those in Christ.**



Last week we looked briefly at the *major truths* regarding SIN. We saw that the main issues regarding SIN can be put into these categories...

CAUSE-CONDITION-CONSEQUENCE

We saw that **the CAUSE** of sin is threefold. We are sinners (1) because of our **inherited connectivity** to Adam & Eve, (2) because of the **innate sins** we naturally commit against our conscience and (3) because of the **intentional sins** we knowingly commit against the truth.

We saw that **the *CONDITION*** of sin is terrible. Because of our sinfulness, we are (1) unworthy of God's holiness, we are (2) unacceptable in his sight, and we are (3) unwelcome in his presence.

We saw that **the *CONSEQUENCE*** of sin is death and separation. Because of our sinfulness, (1) we are **spiritually** (relationally) separated from God, (2) we will eventually be **physically** separated from our body and then (3) **eternally** separated from God in hell forever.

The Situation:

Truly understanding our sinfulness
should lead us to total despair.

The Solution:

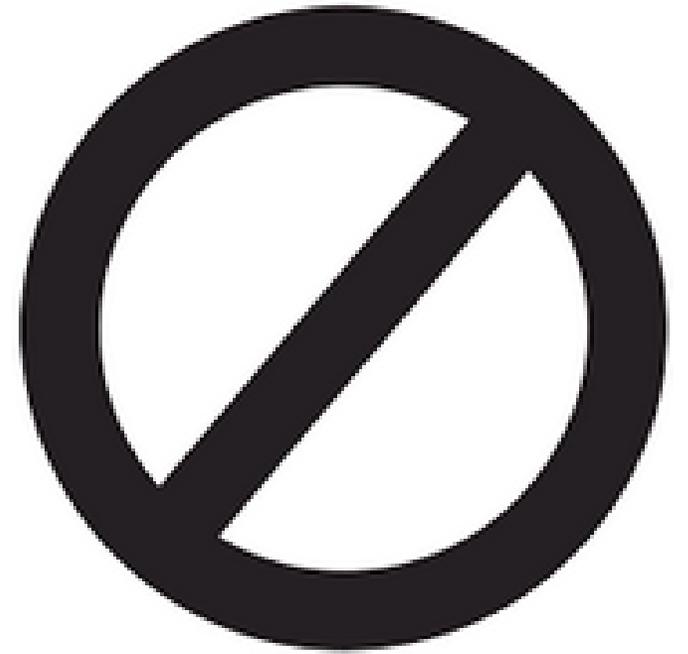
Truly understanding our sinfulness should lead us to a desperate attempt to find a remedy, an escape.

And that is what we find in society...

There are those who are willing to admit there is a God, and that they have gravely offended that God...and so they try and try in their own strength, according to their own ideas to make a way of escape...typically based on their ability to be good enough to appease God.

A person must believe what
God has said about...

Their inability,
to meet the mark
of Christ.



What we mean is that;
Man in his sin is totally helpless
to save himself. Man in his sin
in *unable* to please God enough
in order to be saved.

We could read many verses that
express the **Inability of Man.**

**For while we were still helpless,
at the right time Christ died for
the ungodly. Romans 5:6**

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

For I know that **good itself does not dwell in me**, that is, in my sinful nature.

For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Romans 7:14, 18

**What a wretched man I am! Who
will rescue me from this body that is
subject to death?**

Romans 7:24

For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. Romans 8:3

Those who live according to their sinful nature (flesh) have their minds set on what their flesh desires...The mind governed by the flesh is death...The mind of the person governed by their sinful nature is hostile to **God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.** Romans 8:5-8

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Titus 3:5

Therefore no one will be declared
righteous in God's sight by the works of
the law; rather, through the law we become
conscious of our sin.

Romans 3:20

For all of us have become like one
who is unclean, And **all our righteous
deeds are like filthy rags**; And all of
us wither like a leaf, And our
iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Isaiah 64:6

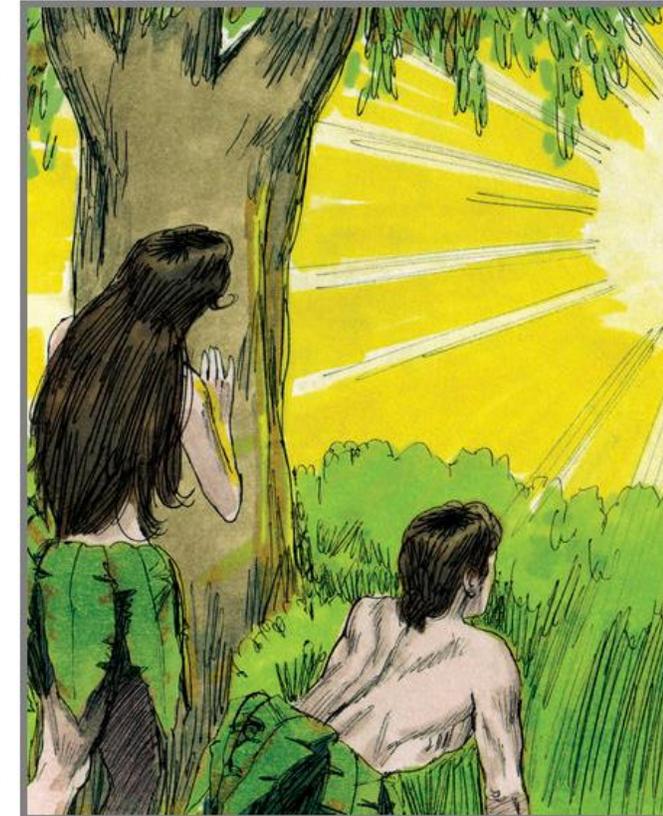
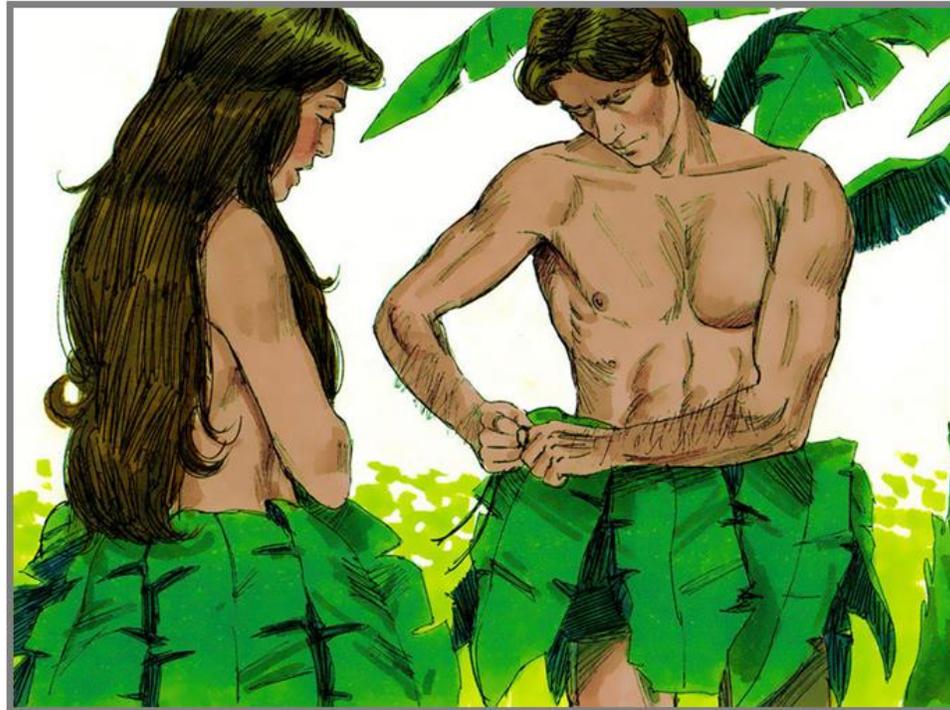
**God often says more
by what he does
than what he says.**

**Many times, by how God acts
in scripture and how he interacts
with humanity, and by
the way he chooses to do things
can tell us nearly as much as
what God actually says.**

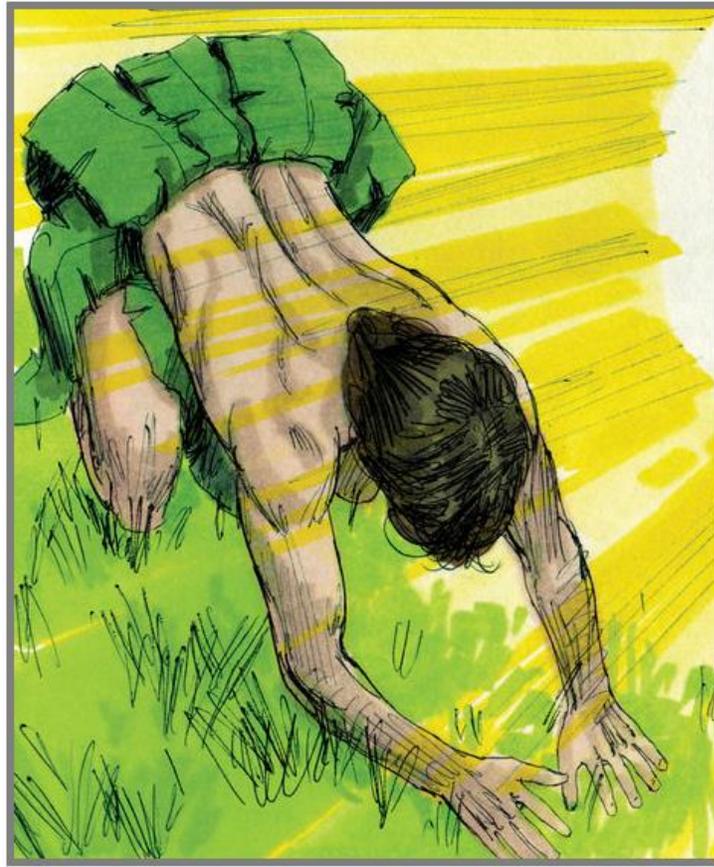
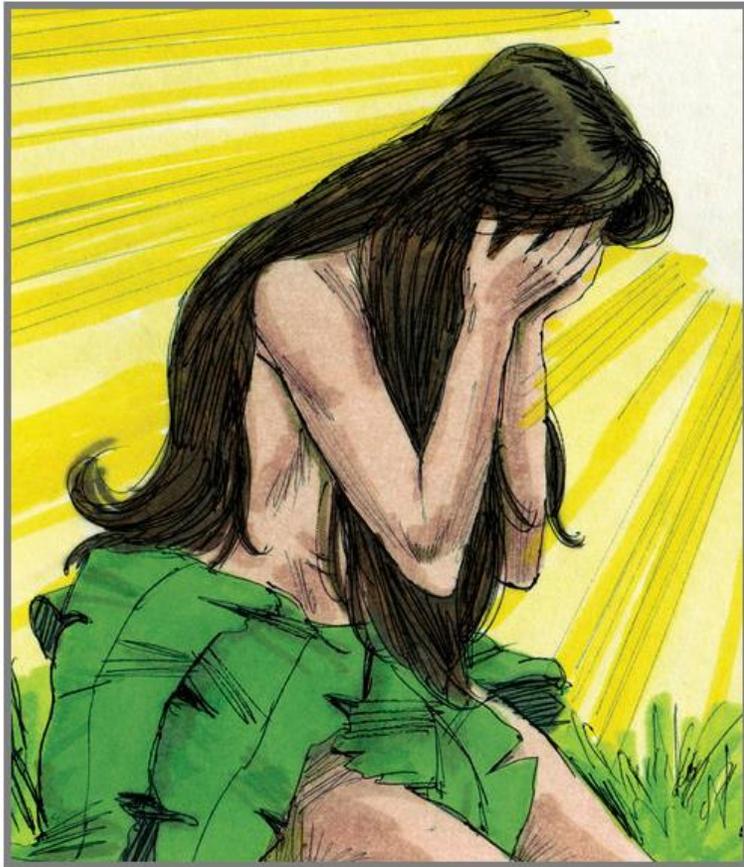
#1 Adam & Eve



After sinning by eating from the tree, Adam and Eve in fear and shame went and hid from the Lord. They then attempted to cover up the problem by sewing fig leaves together.



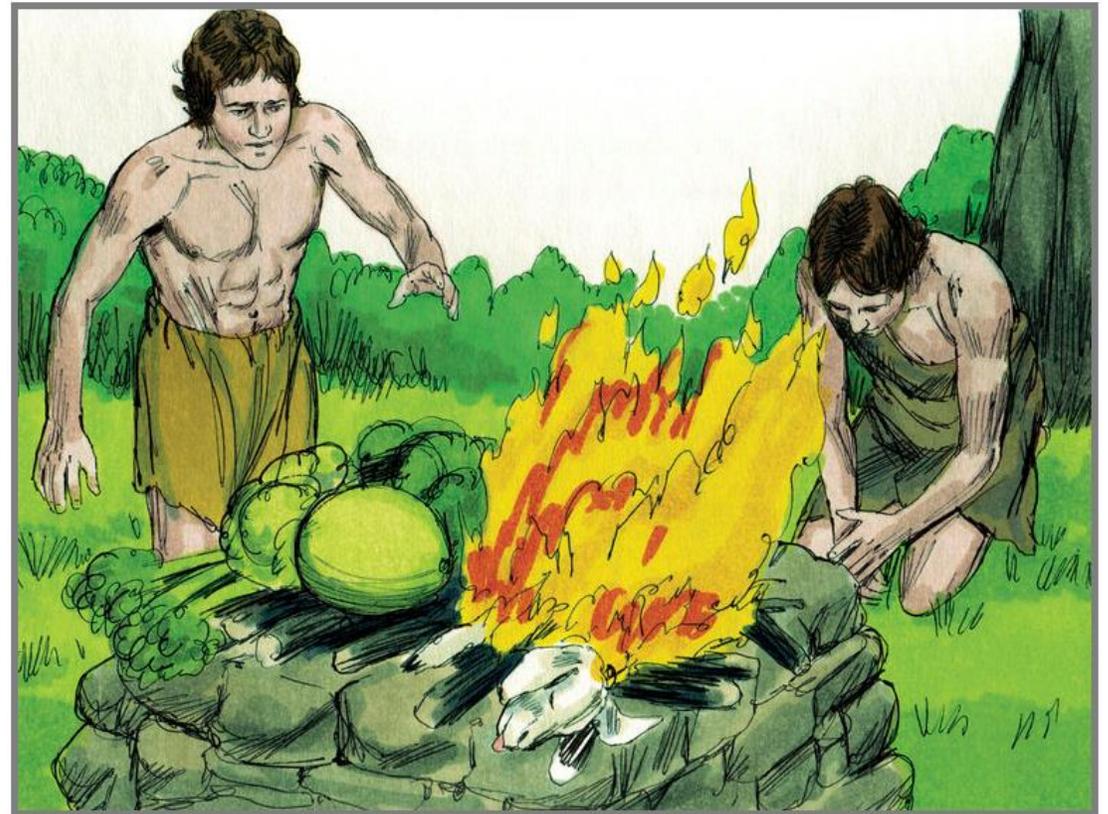
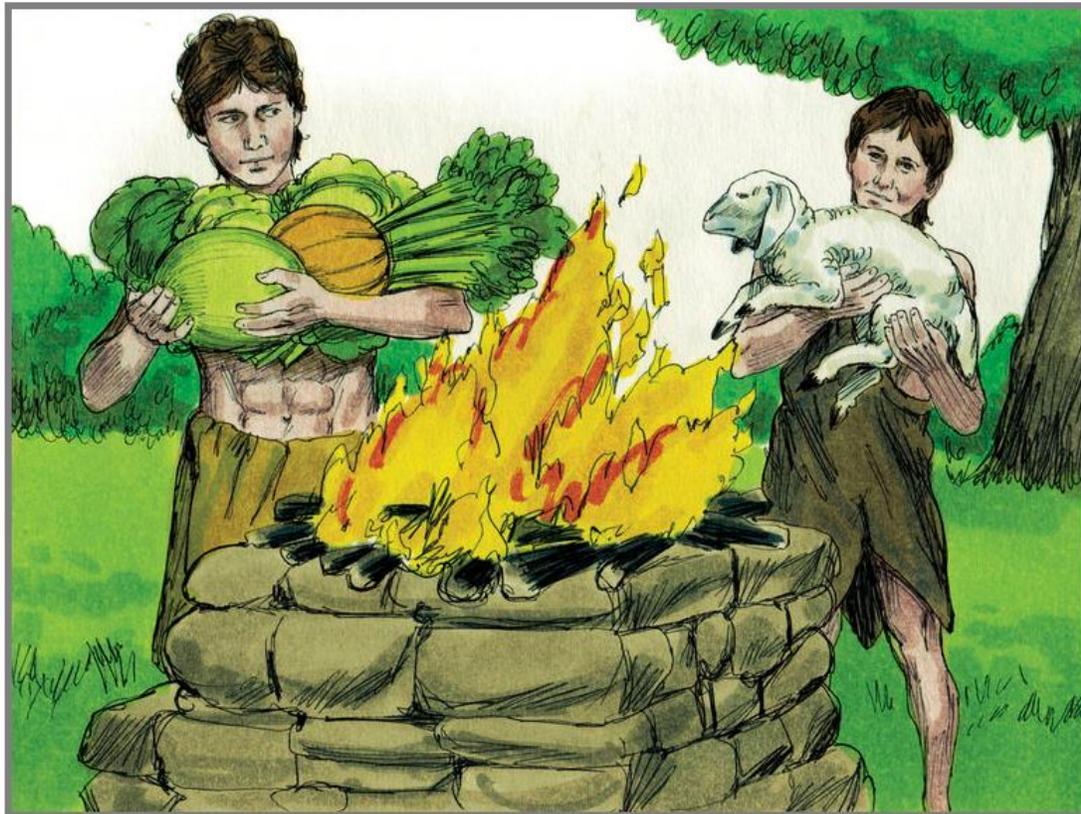
God rejected their attempt at making things right and instead he killed an animal and covered them with the skins.



#2 Cain and Abel



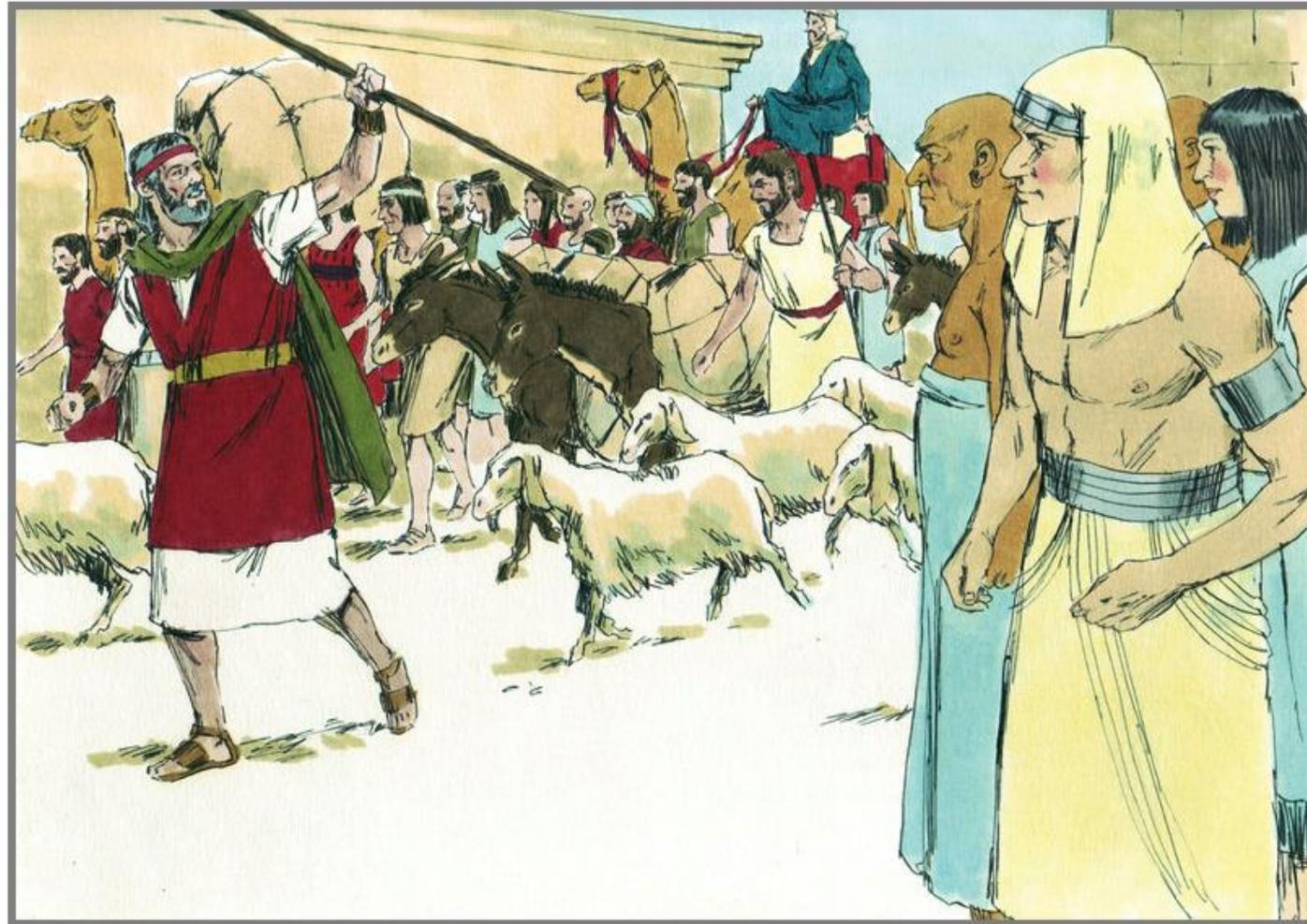
After instituting the Adamic Covenant with Adam and his offspring, which included the need for a blood sacrifice in the form of an acceptable animal offering...one of Adam's sons attempted to come to God according to his own way & own ideas.



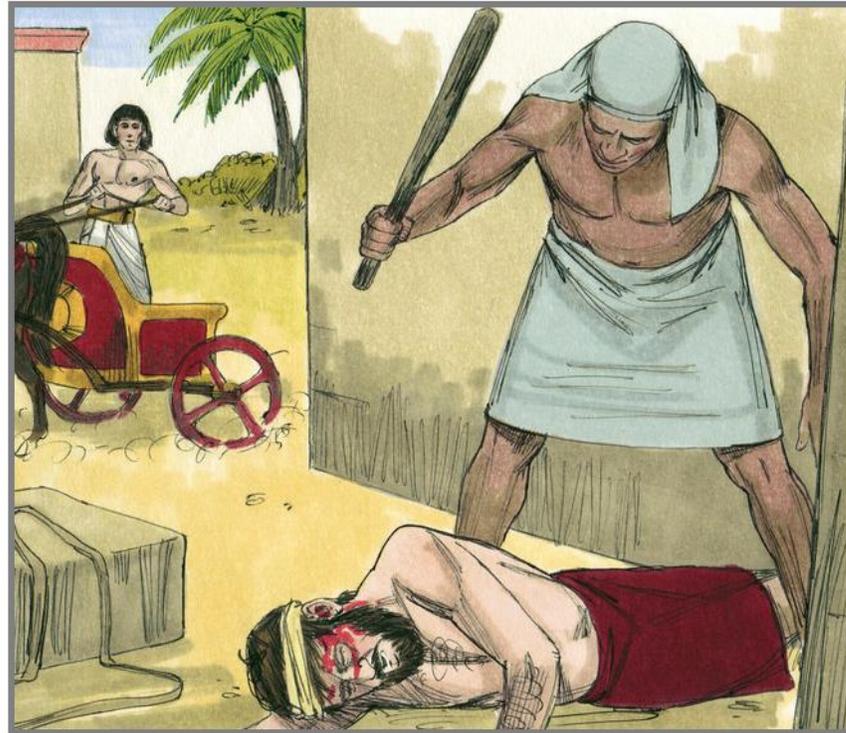
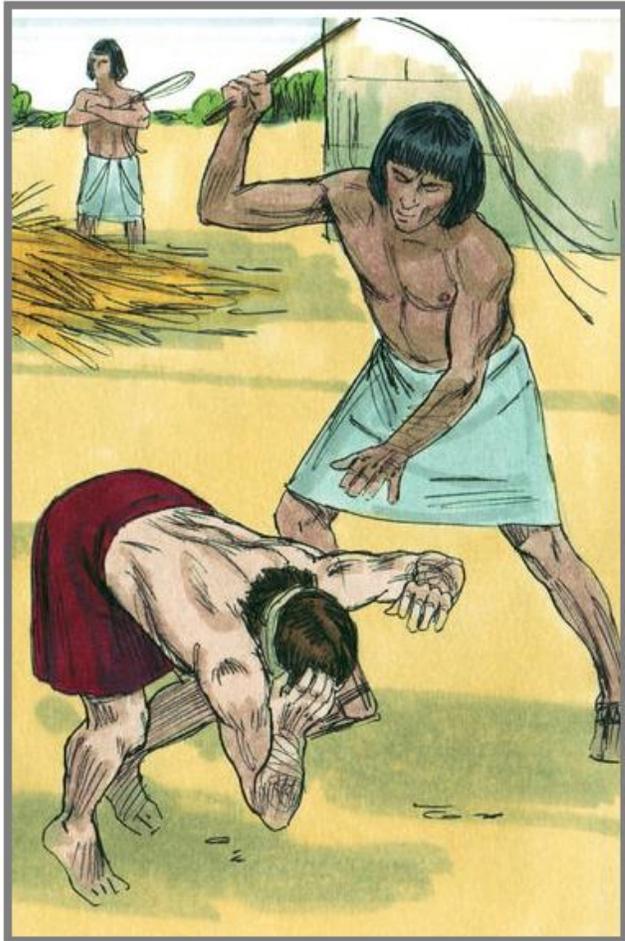
God rejected this attempt by Cain to come in his own way. God did not accept Cain based on Cain's ideas of how to make things right with God.



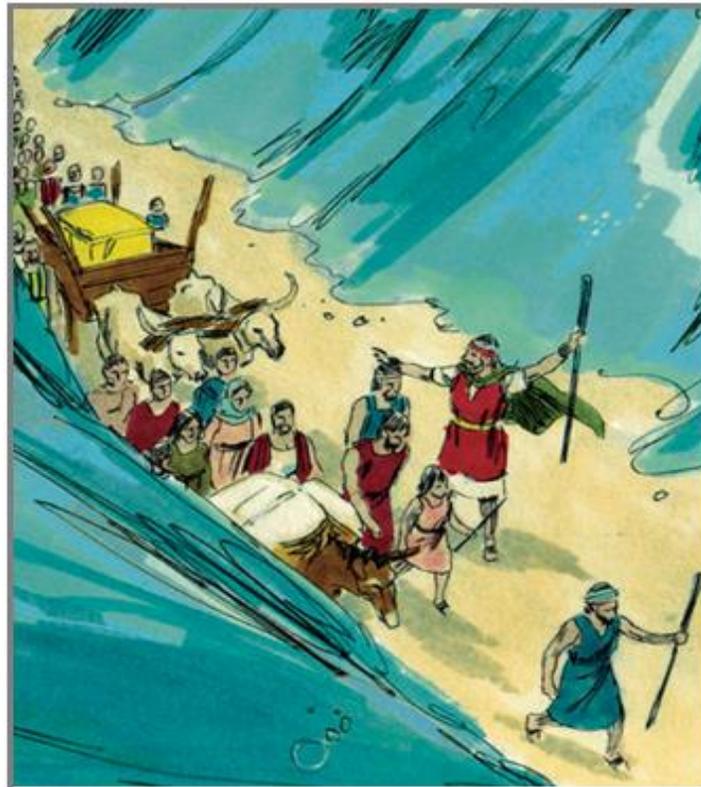
#3 Israel in Egypt



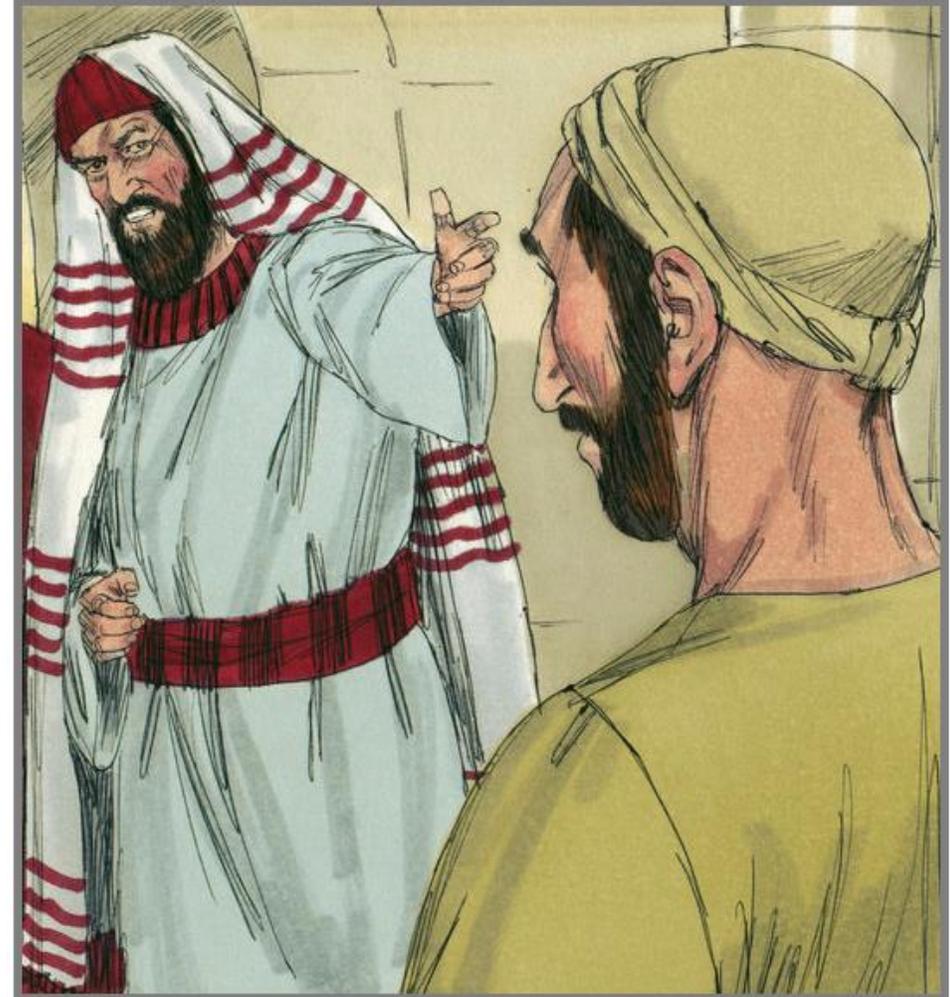
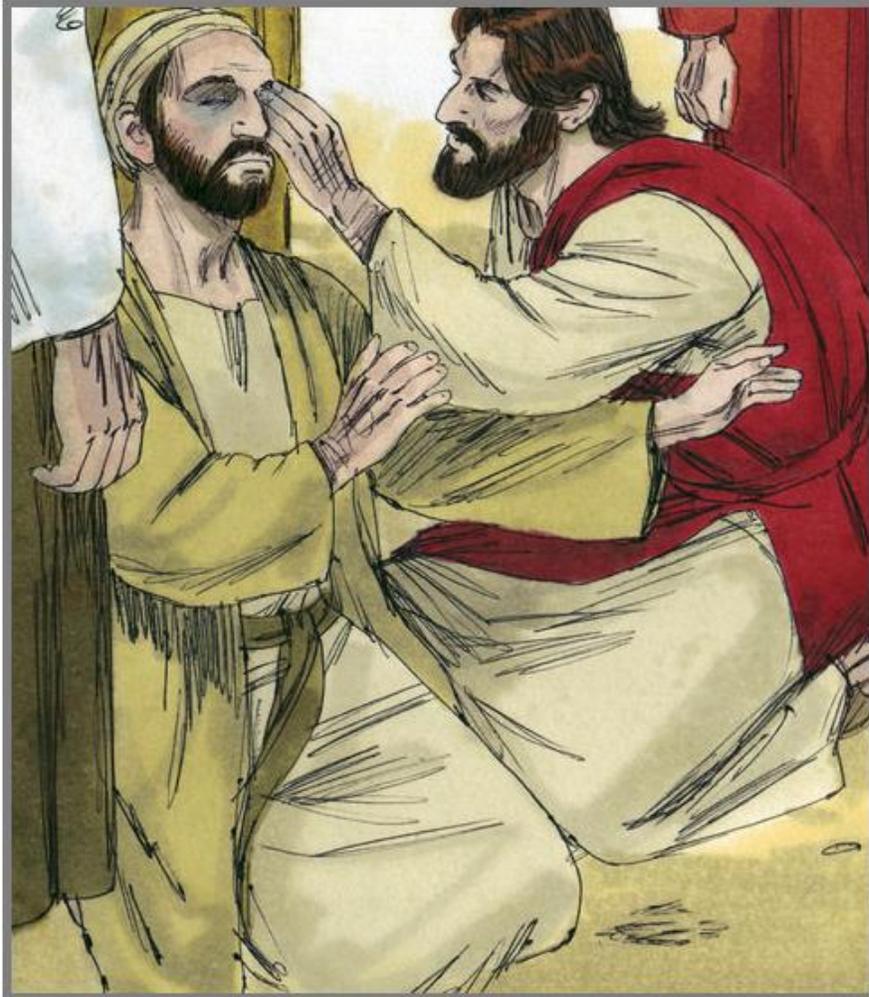
Israel has been in slavery for over 400 years, and has been **utterly unable to free themselves**. Moses actually tried to help a slave by killing the Egyptian who was beating him. But ended up having to flee himself.



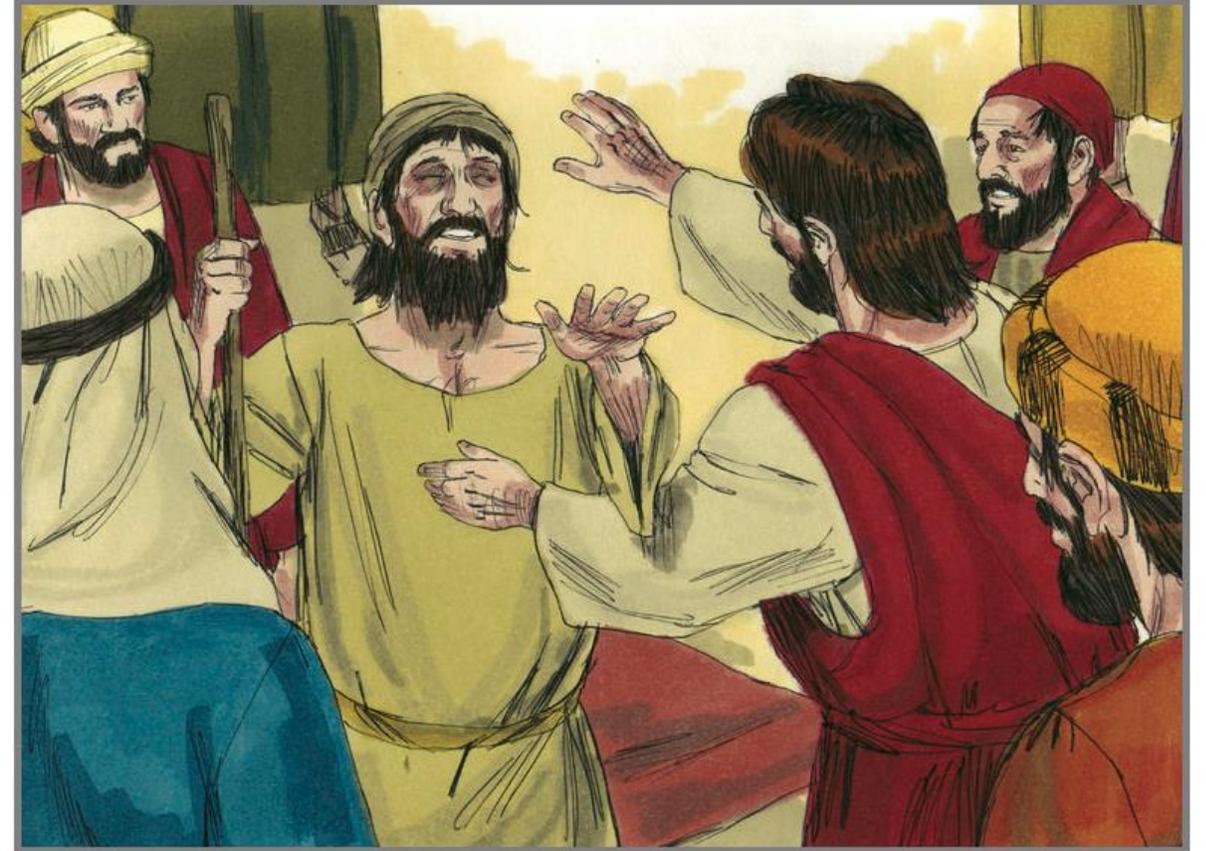
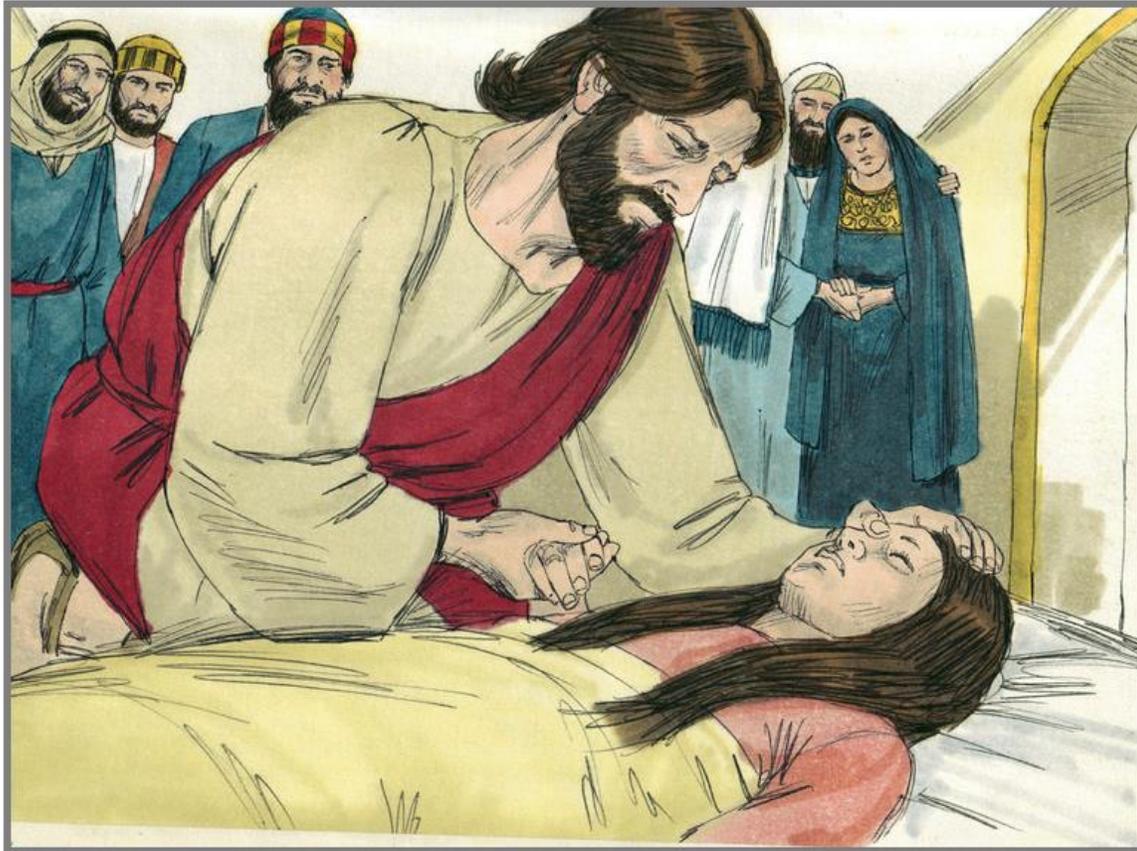
God then comes, performs incredible plagues and frees them. God wants to clearly show that it is not by their power. He instructs them to encamp trapped between the mountains and sea. He then opens the sea for them to pass and then closes it back on the pursuing Egyptians.



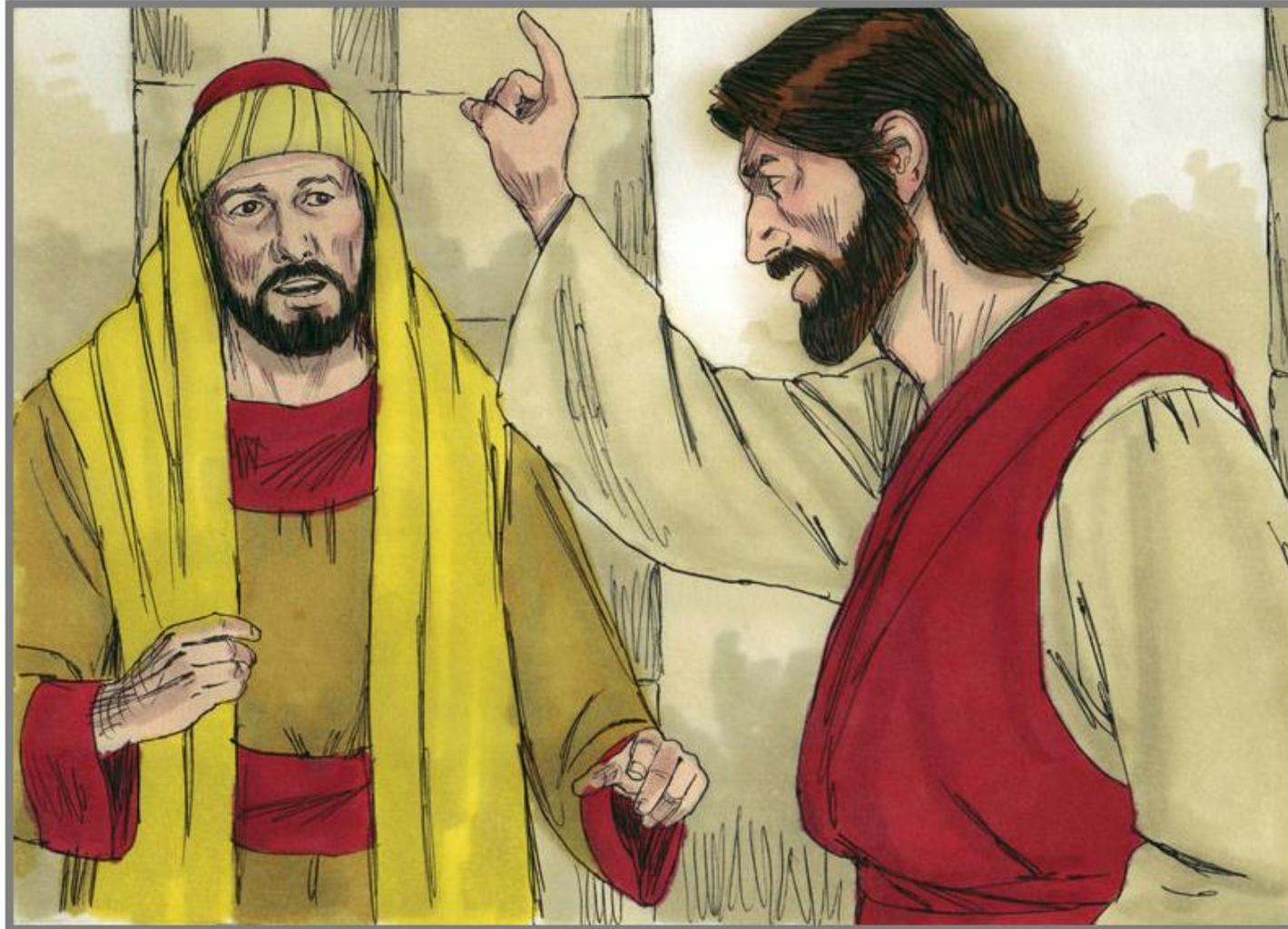
#4 Jesus in Israel



Jesus begins healing people of all sorts of physical illnesses, doing the impossible and doing what they could never have done on their own. And tells many of them that their sins are forgiven simply because of their belief.



Jesus condemns the Pharisees and other religious elite who thought that they had been good enough to warrant access to God.



**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you are like whitewashed tombs which on
the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are
full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So
you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men,
but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and
lawlessness. Matthew 23:27-28**

You Pharisees try to make it look like you aren't sinful. You look like you are totally righteous on the outside, but the inside is still dead and rotten with sin. Your actions haven't taken care of the problem!

For I tell you that unless your
righteousness surpasses that of the
Pharisees and the teachers of the law,
you will certainly not enter the
kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

**If you want to try to earn access into
God's kingdom on the basis of your
works, you'll have to be so perfect in
all your actions, that your
righteousness puts to shame the most
'righteous people' in society.
In other words, you can't.**

And someone came to Him and said,
“Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I
may obtain eternal life?” And He said to
him, “Why are you asking Me about what
is good? There is *only* One who is good;
but if you wish to enter into life, keep the
commandments.” Matthew 19:16-17

**You are asking about being good
enough to earn eternal life, don't
you realize that there is only ONE
who is truly good enough!**

But ok, if you want to try to be good enough to earn eternal life you need to keep all of God's commandments perfectly.

The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be complete, go *and* sell your possessions and give to *the* poor...and come, follow Me.” Matthew 19:20-21

But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

Matthew 19:22

The man is under the impression that he has indeed obeyed the law in everything always, since his youth.

Jesus goes along with it, and decides to simply point out one single area that he knows the man will not be able to obey...proving that he has not in fact obeyed everything perfectly.

Jesus wasn't confirming that the man had actually obeyed the law perfectly since his youth...he was proving that even breaking the law in one area, disqualifies you.

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:10

The disciples are in shock, because the man who was asking had obviously tried very hard, devoutly and very earnestly to obey God in everything always...yet was unworthy of eternal life.

When the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, “Then who can be saved?” And looking at *them* Jesus said to them, “With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:25-26

The disciples are distraught because this would mean that no one can be saved...because it is impossible to be as good as God is good. It is impossible to follow the law perfectly without a single mess up.

Jesus answers by saying, if you are trying to obtain salvation on the basis of man's ability to be good enough, then yes it is impossible. But if you are placing it on God's ability, it is possible!

**Over and over again,
God shows us that we are totally
helpless to save ourselves.**

**Over and over again,
God shows us that we are
unable to appease him by our
good works or come to him in
our own way or according to
our own ideas.**

Through these many accounts
and Pauls' writings we can come
to some clear conclusions about
what God says about the
Inability of Man.

Doctrine 1

God will not accept what sinful, fallen, man does. Man in his fallen state cannot please God enough in order to be saved.

Doctrine 2-A

**Man cannot be good enough
because God requires total
perfection, absolute holiness in
everything, always.**

Doctrine 2-B

Man cannot be good enough according to his own effort, or own ability, in order to be acceptable to God.

Doctrine 3

God will *never* accept anyone according to their ideas or their ways of how to come to him.

Doctrine 4

God will never accept anyone on the basis of their *actions*, no matter how good their intentions may be.

Doctrine 5

Man is a sinner, separated from God, and utterly helpless and unable to save himself.

Doctrine 6

God *only* accepts what God does, because only what God does is holy and perfect in everything always.

Doctrine 7

Man needs God to do something for him if he is to be saved. Man needs God to offer a way to be acceptable and made right.

Doctrine 8

God has done something throughout history, called covenants. These covenants provide a way for man to come to God through God's way.

Doctrine 9

In the Old Testament, man needed to *believe* these covenants were the only way he could come to God and each covenant included an acceptable, yet temporary, blood sacrifice for his sin.

Doctrine 10

In the New Testament, after the death of Christ, man needs to believe that Jesus is God's provision of a *permanent*, acceptable blood sacrifice and that he is now the only way to be counted right before God.