

# University of Swaziland



## Faculty of Education

(DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND TEACHING)

RE-SIT/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER, JULY 2017

**TITLE OF PAPER** : **CURRICULUM STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

**COURSE CODE** : **IDE-EDC 375/CTE522**

**STUDENTS** : **B.Ed. III AND PGCE (IDE); CTE522 (PGCE F/T)**

**TIME** : **THREE (3) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS** : **1. Answer ALL questions**  
**2. Marks are indicated against each question/item**

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY  
THE INVIGILATOR**

**SECTION A SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**QUESTION 1**

**There are five short answer questions in this section. Answer each of them succinctly. Each item is worth 5 marks**

- i) Identify and explain any two purposes of assessment in a teaching/learning situation.
- ii) Rationalise why testing should be an integral part of your teaching.
- iii) Establish the relationship between the following modes of educational assessment:  
testing, measurement, assessment and evaluation.
- iv) Explain the rationale for the Curriculum Studies in Religious Education course in the teaching of Religious Education in schools in Swaziland.
- v). Describe quality marking when marking students' work in Religious Education. **[25]**

**SECTION B APPLICATION**

**ANSWER BOTH QUESTIONS IN THIS SECTION**

**QUESTION TWO**

Use the attached extract of the Religious Education Form 2 Book (Religious Education: Form 2 Learners Book, 2017) to construct an end of month test. Its duration should be 1: 10 hour or a double period of 70 minutes. **[25]**

**QUESTION THREE**

Choose any one teaching resource and illustrate **using a lesson plan**, how you would use it in teaching a Form 1 Religious Education double period (110 minutes) lesson. **[25]**

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**THE END**

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## **Chapter 3            The Galilean Ministry**

### **Unit 1    Jesus' preparation for Ministry**

#### **Objectives**

**By the end of this unit, you should be able to:**

- Describe how John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah
- Explain the importance of John's ministry
- Give an account of the baptism of Jesus Christ
- Explain the significance of Jesus' baptism
- Outline the temptations of Jesus
- Discuss the significance of the temptation
- Explain lessons learnt from the temptations

In chapter 2 you learnt about the infancy and birth narratives of John and Jesus. In this chapter you will focus on how Jesus was prepared for the great ministry He was about to begin in Galilee. You will also learn about His ministry in Galilee.

The Galilean Ministry is divided into three sections. These are the early, major and final ministries. In all three there are common features of Jesus' activities such as miracles, teachings and parables. These will be discussed separately in chapter 4.

The main focus of this unit is how John's ministry prepared the people's hearts for the coming Messiah. The preparation will also include Jesus baptism as well as His temptations.

#### **John prepares the way (Luke 3: 1-20)**

As we learnt in chapter 1, John's birth as prophesied in the Old Testament was eventually fulfilled. His role was to prepare the way for the Messiah. He did this by preaching a baptism of repentance to the people. He began his ministry in the wilderness of Judea. Many people came to be baptized by him in the River Jordan, including Sadducees and Pharisees. He demanded repentance with fruits from everyone including those who thought they would receive salvation just because they were Abraham's descendants. This meant that wayward behaviours had to be changed:

- Soldiers were to rob no one but to be content with their wages,
- Tax collectors to collect what was due
- Multitudes to share food and clothes.

The change in behavior was going to make it easy for the people to accept Jesus' work. John prepared them for a spiritual Messiah instead of the political Messiah they had anticipated. That is why he preached a baptism of repentance because Jesus was bringing spiritual deliverance.

### **Add The baptism of Jesus**

Most Christian churches teach that every Christian must be baptised with water so that they become full members of the church. Many churches baptise young children, while others baptise their members when they are older.

Figure 3.1.1



John preaches by the River Jordan

### **The baptism of Jesus(Matthew3:11)**

Figure 3.1.2



John baptizes Jesus

### **Activity (work in pairs)**

Study the picture and answer the questions that follow.

1. Have you ever witnessed a baptism?
2. In your own opinion why do people get baptized?

Many Christian churches teach that every Christian must be baptised with water... insert from page 23- 24 of Elise

Jesus Christ also came to be baptized by John the Baptist. John refused to baptize him claiming that Jesus was far superior to Him (Matthew 3:11). However, Jesus encouraged him to fulfill what had been written in the scripture (Matthew 3:15). The Baptist eventually agreed to baptize Him. Whilst Jesus was being baptized the heavens were opened and a voice was heard from heaven declaring that Jesus was God's son with whom He is well pleased. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in a form of a dove.

The baptism of Jesus was important in the following ways:

- His baptism was a moment in which He was reassured of who He was and what God expected from Him
- This was a formal public introduction of Jesus to the people
- A public approval of John's ministry who was preparing the people for the Messiah
- It was an act of dedicating himself to the ministry
- It was an act of identify with humanity
- It was a sign of personal humility

### **The temptations of Jesus (Luke 4: 1-13)**

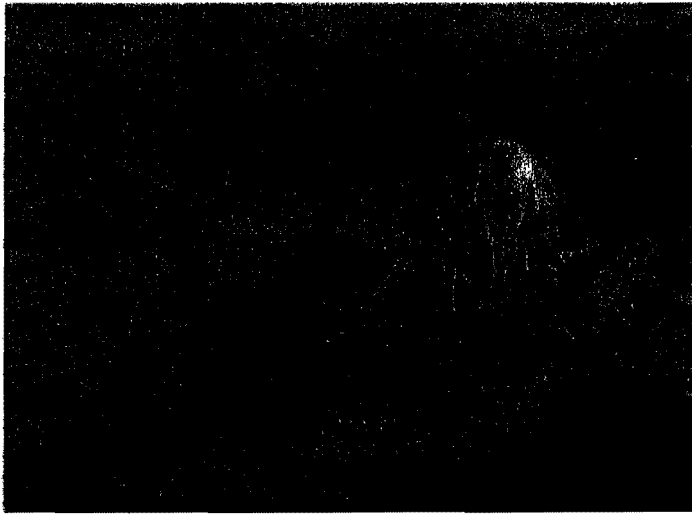
#### **Activity 2- Class discussion**

State temptations you have faced recently and discuss how you overcame them.

We all face temptations and it is important how we handle them. Being tempted happens when a person is filled with thoughts of doing something that is wrong. When you are tempted you want to do something that you know is against God's will.

The dramatic spiritual experience of Jesus at baptism was followed by the temptations in the wilderness. Jesus rejected all temptations on the basis of scripture. This was also meant to prepare Him for His ministry. Led by the Holy Spirit to the dessert, He fasted for forty days and forty nights. The devil came to Him with three temptations:

Figure 3.1.3



Jesus praying in the desert

### **The first temptation**

After forty days of fasting Jesus was hungry and physically weakened. The devil tempted him, saying, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread' (Luke 4:3). But Jesus resisted the temptation, saying 'Man shall not live by bread alone' (Luke 4:4). This was a quotation from a scripture. (Deuteronomy 8:3)

We can learn a number of lessons for this temptation:

- Jesus, like any ordinary human being, suffered and felt physical pain. In this case, he was hungry and weakened by his hunger.
- He was tempted, just as other humans are. This allowed him to feel pity for us and understand what we are going through, because he himself was tempted.
- The devil doubted that Jesus was the Son of God. He wanted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God by turning a stone to bread. Jesus would not allow the devil to defeat him by doing the devil's command. He quoted a scripture to get rid of the devil.

### **Activity 3**

#### **Work on your own.**

What do you think would have happened to Jesus (particularly in his relationship with God and to his ministry) if he had given in to the devil's command?

### **The second temptation**

Jesus had to be fully prepared for the ministry ahead of him. In the second temptation, the devil took him up to the highest mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world at once. He told Jesus that he would give all authority and glory for these kingdoms to Jesus, if he worshipped the devil.

Jesus once again refused to fall into the devil's trap. He reminded the devil that the scripture forbade him from worshipping the devil because only God deserves to be worshipped.

We can learn a number of lessons for this temptation:

- The devil thought that Jesus would be interested in worldly power and glory.
- The devil has authority over all the kingdoms of the world, and it is willing to share these with anyone who would worship him.
- Jesus's knowledge of the scriptures made him able to overcome the devil's temptation.
- Jesus refused to be interested in worldly beauties. He would rather have none of the glories of the world than offend God.

### **The third temptation**

In the third temptation, the devil took Jesus to the holy city, Jerusalem, and set him on the highest part of the temple. He told Jesus that if Jesus was really the Son of God, he should throw himself down, because the scripture said that God would send his angels to protect him. Again Jesus quoted the scripture, reminding the devil that the scripture forbade him from tempting God.

We can learn a number of lessons for this temptation:

- The devil does not give up easily. He keeps on trying to get a person to do things against God.
- The devil still wanted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God by doing something extraordinary.
- The devil quoted a scripture to try to persuade Jesus to do what we want. This tells us that we should know the scriptures well so that we understand what they mean, even if they are quoted out of context.
- Jesus answered by quoting the scripture back at the devil.

### **Activity 4 work on your own**

Conduct your own research. Speak to someone who has undertaken a fast. Find out the following about the person's fast:

- The number of days he or she fasted.
- Reasons for undertaking the fast.
- Things he or she abstained from during the fasting period.
- Whether he or she was tempted to break the fast because of any temptations, and how he or she resisted or did not resist the temptation.
- How he or she felt (physical and spiritual) after successfully completing the task or failing to complete the task.
- Would he or she encourage or discourage other Christians to go on a fast? Why or why not?

All three temptations were suggestions of how Jesus could perform His assignment outside of God's will:

- To appeal to people by offering material things( bread made from stones) thus appealing to their selfish nature
- To appeal to miraculous tricks in order to gain popularity
- To collaborate with the devil in order gain the kingdoms of the world.

Jesus resisted all these temptations by the devil before beginning His Ministry. It was important for Him to do so because such ideas were tricks that He would meet throughout His ministry. Therefore, He had to deal with them once and for all.

One can draw important moral lessons from all the temptation of Jesus by the devil:

- We are all tempted to do what is wrong
- We do not have to submit to temptations
- We have to rely on scripture to conquer the devil

### **Exercise work on your own**

Answer all questions in your exercise books

1. How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus Christ?
2. Describe Jesus' baptism by the River Jordan
3. Explain the importance of Jesus' baptism in preparing for His Ministry.
4. State the three temptations of Jesus by the devil?
5. Explain how the temptations prepared Jesus for His Ministry.
6. What moral lesson can you draw from the temptations of Jesus?

### **Assignment**

Research on any **two** of the following Bible characters who were tempted by the devil.

- i) Judas Iscariot (Luke 22: 1-6)
- ii) Ananias and Sapphires (Acts 5:1-11)
- iii) Joseph (Genesis 39: 7-14)
- iv) Daniel (Daniel 1: 8-20)
- v) Simon Peter (Luke 22: 54-62)

In your answer highlight if the characters you chose submitted to the temptations or not

### **Summary**

- John prepared the way for the Messiah by preaching a baptism of repentance
- John's ministry was meant to make the people's hearts to be ready and accept the Messiah
- Jesus was baptized by John in the river Jordan



- God confirmed that Jesus was His son by sending the Holy Spirit in a form of a dove
- The devil tempted Jesus by suggesting three temptations which He turned down on the basis of scripture
- The temptations also prepared Jesus for His ministry because He would face temptations as He continue with life
- There are important moral lessons that could be drawn from the temptations like we are all tempted to do what is wrong, we do not have to submit to temptation and we have to rely on scripture to conquer the devil

## **Unit 2 The commencement of the Galilean Ministry**

### **Objectives**

**By the end of this unit, you should be able to:**

- Give an account of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth
- Explain why Jesus was rejected at Nazareth
- Relate how Jesus chose the twelve Apostles
- Discuss the assurance of Jesus Christ to John the Baptist
- Describe the story of Jesus and the sinful woman
- Explain lessons learnt from the story of Jesus and the sinful woman

In unit one you learnt how Jesus was prepared for His ministry through John's preaching, His baptism and temptation. In this unit, we will focus on Jesus' early ministry undertaken just after His preparation in Galilee.

### **Rejection at Nazareth (Luke 4:14-30)**

As a devout Jew, Jesus went to the synagogue to worship on the Sabbath. He was invited to read from the scriptures and comment on them as a Rabbi. Jesus read Isaiah 61: 1-2. This passage spoke of the mission to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind. Jesus told the people that what Isaiah prophesied had been fulfilled. The people were impressed at His understanding of the scripture but at the same time doubted if He was the Messiah because:

- They knew Him as Joseph's son.
- He reminded them that Elijah helped a Gentile widow (1 Kings 17: 8-16) and during the time of Elisha only Naaman the Syrian was healed (2 Kings 5). This meant that God sometimes chose Gentiles over Jews.

The passage of scripture which Jesus read originally referred to the restoration of the Jews from captivity in Babylon. However, Jesus spoke of the new and greater deliverance that He was bringing. He was implying that He was the long awaited Messiah.

### **New words**

**Rabbi-** a Jewish scholar or teacher especially one who studies Jewish law.

**Devout-**

### **The call of the first disciples (Luke 5:1-11)**

Jesus' followers were known as disciples. A disciple is one who follows and is taught. Jesus had apostles too. An apostle is one who is sent on a mission. Jesus chose his apostle from the many disciples he had.

While Jesus was preaching to a large crowd on the shore of Gennesaret, He saw two empty boats. The fishermen were washing their nets, so Jesus climbed into the boat of Simon in order that He might speak more easily to the people. When Jesus had finished preaching He ordered Simon to lower the nets for a catch. Simon replied that He had caught nothing all night. However he obeyed and caught many fish.

Other fishermen were called to help as both boats were filled with fish until they began to sink. Simon and his partners James and John were amazed, and Simon fell down before Jesus acknowledging his unworthiness. However Jesus told them not to be afraid for they will soon be catching men rather than fish. When they returned to the land they went with Jesus as His disciples.

### **Activity 1 pair work**

Read Luke 5:1–11 and answer these questions.

1. Name the first disciples of Jesus.
2. What evidence in the conversation between Jesus and Simon tells us that Simon was a sinful man?
3. a) How did the fishermen benefit from Jesus's command that Simon put his fishing boat and nets deeper into the water?

Figure 4.2.1



Drawing of Jesus and his disciples

### **The call of the twelve Apostles (Luke 6: 12-16)**

Jesus had many disciples the first three Peter, John and James. After spending a whole night praying he chose the twelve Apostles. This was one of the important decisions Jesus had to make so he had to pray for guidance. Disciples were those who voluntarily attached

themselves to Jesus and became His followers. He called his disciples and chose from them twelve whom He named apostles. The apostles were:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Peter</li> <li>• John</li> <li>• James</li> <li>• Andrew</li> <li>• Phillip</li> <li>• Bartholomew</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew</li> <li>• Thomas</li> <li>• James the son of Alphaeus</li> <li>• Simon the Zealot</li> <li>• Judas the son of James</li> <li>• Judas Iscariot</li> </ul>
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### **Assurance to John the Baptist (Luke 7: 18-38)**

We have learnt that Jesus Christ and John the Baptist were related from birth. They were cousins. We also noted that John's ministry was to prepare the way for Jesus. Just when Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod Antipas who was ruler of Galilee during the time of Jesus. John was a strict person in issues of sins. Remember that when John prepared the way for the Messiah he demanded fruits of repentance from the people. He could not turn a blind eye when Herod married his brother's wife. Instead he spoke against that sin. Thus, Herod imprisoned him.

John heard of signs and wonders Jesus performed. He sent his disciples to Jesus to ask whether He was the one to come or they should expect another one.. He said so because he had some doubts. Jesus replied by saying they should go back and tell John of what they have heard and seen, the blind see, the deaf hear and the Gospel is preached. Probably John expected Jesus to help him out of the imprisonment. Their relationship therefore was strained.

Jesus explained the significance of John to the people and said:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| • wilderness and had no friends but they did not accept him | John lived in the    |
| • in whatever he believed in                                | John was also strong |
| • prophet ( He held him in high esteem)                     | He was more than a   |

### **Activity 2- Class Discussion**

Describe John's character.

### **Jesus and the sinful woman (Luke 7: 36-50)**

*Artwork showing a picture of Jesus at table with the Pharisees and the woman bending over and washing the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiping them with her hair.*

### Activity 3- class discussion

Study the picture and answer the questions that follow:

1. What is the woman doing?
2. Why do you think the woman is doing this?

Jesus encounter with the sinful woman was one of the events that took place in His early Galilean ministry. We should note that Jesus associated Himself with people of different characters. A good example is His encounter with a sinful woman. Simon the Pharisee invited Jesus for dinner. He seemed to hold Jesus in high esteem for he called him a teacher and wanted to hear Him preach. It was a custom of the Jews that when a Rabbi was invited, anybody could come to listen to his preaching. That is why a woman from the city, with bad moral conduct (perhaps a prostitute) came to Simon's house to listen to the wise words of the Rabbi. She brought with her an alabaster flask of ointment. She went straight to Jesus, cried and washed the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiped it with her hair. She then anointed Jesus' feet with the ointment.

Simon and the other Pharisees were shocked that Jesus allowed the sinful woman to touch Him. They concluded that Jesus was not a prophet because He could not judge that the woman was a sinner. Jesus perceived their thoughts and replied with a parable of two debtors. One of the debtors owned five hundred denarii (the sinful woman) and the other fifty (Simon). They failed to pay back and were both forgiven. Jesus forgave the sinful woman. Those at table complained about Jesus' claim to forgive sins.

The meaning of the story was that the sinful woman was more grateful to God because she was forgiven more sins. She proved her greater love for God than Simon by washing the feet of Jesus and anointing them. According to Jewish law and custom, Simon was supposed to hug and wash Jesus' feet as his guest but he did not do it. The sinful woman did what was supposed to be done by Simon.

### Exercise

Answer all questions in your exercise books.

1. Define Apostle.
2. List any four of Jesus' apostles.
3. Explain the importance of the message Jesus read in the synagogue at Nazareth.
4. Explain why the relationship between Jesus and John was strained.
5. How did Jews welcome their guests?
6. Why were the Pharisees not happy when Jesus forgave the sins of the sinful woman?

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 7. | Explain the moral lessons that can be drawn from the story of Jesus and the sinful woman. |
| 8. | Explain why Jesus was rejected in Nazareth.   |

### Assignment

Find out if the action of the sinful woman was correct according to Jewish law and custom.

### Summary

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ministry at Nazareth his hometown</li> </ul>  | Jesus began his        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nazareth was a declaration of His Messiahship</li> </ul>  | His preaching at       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• disciples by the Lake of Gennesaret</li> </ul>  | Jesus called his first |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus chose twelve apostles who were: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alpheus, Simon the zealot, Judas the son of James and Judas Iscariot</li> </ul> | From His disciples     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• questioned Jesus' Messiahship because of doubt</li> </ul>   | John the Baptist       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John was greater than a prophet</li> </ul>  | Jesus stressed that    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sinful woman because of her love for Jesus.</li> </ul>  | Jesus forgave the      |

### **Unit 3 - Early opposition in Galilee**

#### **Objectives**

**By the end of the unit, you should be able to:**

- Describe Jesus' early opposition.
- Explain the reasons why Jesus faced opposition.

In the previous unit we learnt about the beginning of Jesus' Galilean ministry. In this unit we will focus on Jesus' opposition with the Pharisees. Later opposition with the religious leaders will be discussed in chapter 4.

An opposition is a strong disagreement with a plan or policy. During his ministry Jesus faced opposition from the religious leaders of his time. He clashed with them for the following reasons:

- Claiming to forgive sins
- Eating with sinners
- Failure to fast
- Working on the Sabbath

1.

#### **Claiming to forgive**

**sins (Luke 5: 17-26)**

The earlier conflict and opposition Jesus encountered was on the issue of forgiving sins. The Pharisees and scribes came from Judea and Galilee to hear him preach. Some of Jesus' followers brought a paralytic man but could not bring him before Jesus because there were many people. They brought him in through the roof top and laid his bed before Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, He forgave him his sins. The Pharisees and the scribes questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sins. They believed that only God could forgive sins. They accused Jesus of blasphemy.

Jesus asked them why they had a lot of questions. For Jesus, it made no difference whether He said, 'rise and walk' or 'your sins are forgiven' because He had power to forgive sins.

Artwork of a paralytic man lowered through the roof by his brothers

#### **Activity 1 pair work**

1. Why is the man being lowered through the roof?
2. Whose faith led to the healing of the paralytic man?

#### **Eating with sinners (Luke 5: 27-32)**

Jesus saw Levi the tax-collector and asked him to follow Him. Levi who was also called Matthew left everything and followed Jesus. Levi made a feast for Jesus and invited other tax-collectors and social outcasts. Tax collectors were disliked by the Jews because:

- They forced people to pay more taxes and kept some of the money for themselves
- They were seen as people who were collaborating with the Romans to ill-treat the Jews
- Their work also made them to be in contact with Gentile traders

When Jesus went to Levi's house he was accused of eating with sinners. Jesus replied that He had come for people such as Levi.

### **Failure to fast (Luke 5: 33-39)**

Further opposition came from those who accused Jesus that His disciples did not fast and yet John's and the Pharisees' disciples fasted often. Jews had regular fasts and strict Pharisees observed extra fasts as well (Luke 18: 12). Jesus defended Himself with a parable. He said it would be inappropriate for His disciples to fast while He, the bridegroom was with them. Jesus used two more parables to illustrate that the kingdom of God is something new and that a real change of ideas and behavior was needed. These parables are:

- skins Old and new wines
- garments Old and new

### **Working on the Sabbath (Luke 6: 1-5)**

Observing the Sabbath was important in Jewish life. Strict Jews would prefer to die than break the Sabbath law. Jews believed that by keeping the Sabbath law they would see the kingdom of God. Jesus was accused of not rebuking His disciples who plucked grains and rubbed them in their hands on the Sabbath. This was regarded as work which was forbidden on a Sabbath. Jesus replied by referring to David and his men who entered the Temple and ate the Bread of the Presence because they were hungry (1 Samuel: 21:1-6). The bread had been placed as an offering to God and only priests were allowed to eat it (Lev 24:9). His reply meant that if David could break such a law then His disciples were not guilty. Proclaiming the kingdom of God was more urgent than keeping the Sabbath law.

### **Activity 2 work as a class**

Do you think the Jews were right in being so strict in the observance of the Jewish laws and customs?

### **Exercise work on your own**

Answer the questions in your exercise books.

1. of conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees Name three causes
2. forgave the sins of the paralytic Explain why Jesus
3. What is a fast
4. disciples accused of working on the Sabbath? Why was Jesus'



5. why tax collectors were hated by the Jews.

State three reasons

### **Assignment**

Identify groups of people in your community who worship on Saturday and on Sunday. Find out from these believers why they worship on this particular day. Report your findings to the class.

### **Summary**

- Jesus was opposed by the Jewish leaders for the following reasons claiming to forgive sins, eating with sinners and failure to fast.

## **CHAPTER 4 JESUS IN ACTION**

### **Unit 1 Jesus' Teachings**

#### **Objectives**

By the end this unit, you should be able to:

- Describe the teaching of Jesus
- Explain the importance of the teachings of Jesus

In Chapter 3 we learnt about the Galilean ministry. In the ministry we covered Jesus' preparation for His ministry, His early Galilean ministry and His early conflicts. The chapter excluded Jesus' teachings, parables and miracles. Jesus spent most of his time teaching. He would teach to crowds, his disciples and even individuals. It was important to teach because at that time teaching was for the elite. The elite, like the Pharisees would sometimes misinterpret the law to suit their own needs. The masses were in the dark so Jesus wanted to bring light to the masses. Jesus tried to reach all the classes in the society like women, sinners, children and the elite. In this unit we will learn about the teachings of Jesus and the importance of these teachings.

Jesus taught on some of the following issues:

#### **Forgiveness**

Jesus taught about the importance of forgiveness on the sermon on the plain. In Luke 6:38, Jesus said, "forgive and you will be forgiven." This means that your forgiveness lies with forgiving the next person. Another example of forgiveness in Jesus' ministry is in (Luke 7:36-50), where Jesus forgave a sinful woman.

#### **Loving your enemies (Luke 6:27,35)**

Jesus taught about the importance of loving your enemies. In Luke (6:27, 35), Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do well to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." Jesus here taught the we should love everyone, including those who hate us.

#### **Mercy (Luke 6:36)**

Jesus taught about the importance of being merciful. In Luke 6:36, Jesus said, "be merciful even as your father is merciful."

### **Judging others (Luke**

Jesus taught that it is not good to judge others because we all make mistakes and have weaknesses. Luke 6:41, Jesus said, "Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, brother let me take out the speck in your eye when you yourself cannot see the log that is in your own eye. You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

### **Giving (Luke 6: 30,38)**

Jesus taught about the importance of giving. If you give, God will bless you with more. In Luke 6:30, 38, Jesus said, "Give to everyone who begs from you and of him who takes away your goods do not ask again. And give and it will be given to you, good measure; pressed down, shaken together, running over will be put into your lap. For the measure you give, will be the measure you get back." Jesus also taught that whenever we give, we should do it in secret, Matthew 7:2-4.

### **Retaliation (Luke 6:29)**

Jesus taught that we must not retaliate, instead we must forgive. In Luke 6:29, Jesus said, "To him, who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also and from him who takes away your coat, do not withhold even your shirt" (Luke 6:29).

### **Activity Pair work**

Read the case study and answer the following questions

Veli is a shy 15 years old boy. He is in form 3 at Sipatji High school. His dream is to be a pilot when he completes his studies. Lately Veli no longer wants to go to school. He absconded Mr Matsebulas Maths class. Mr Matsebula searched for him at school and he found Veli crying in the toilet. When he asked him why he was in the toilet during his lesson, Veli said he feared a group of boys who bullied him every day. Veli stated that they called him by terrible words and they also eat his lunch box.

1. Why is Veli hiding in the toilet?
2. If you were in Veli's position what would you have done? Give reasons for your answer.
3. How will forgiving the bullies help Veli?

## **Warnings**

Jesus taught his disciples to always be ready because they did not know when the Son of Man would come to earth. He warned that they should always keep watch so that when God comes, he finds them ready. The following are examples of Jesus' teachings on watchfulness:

### **The watchful servant**

In Luke 12:35–40, Jesus taught his disciples to be ready like servants waiting for their master to come back from a wedding. When the master comes, they must open the door for him at once. Jesus pointed out that it was important that the master finds them ready even if he comes at night. This is because the Son of Man would come at an hour when they did not expect.

### **Hypocrisy (Luke 11:37-12:1-12)**

In Luke 12:1–3, we read that Jesus warned the disciples against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. He said: Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

The Pharisees pretended to do what was right in public, but in private they did not do the right thing. They were supposed to be the teachers of the law but they did not follow the laws themselves.

Jesus wanted his disciples to follow God's laws in all ways, and in private as well as in public. He did not want them to be pretenders. Key virtues that Jesus wanted his disciples to possess were honesty and humility.

### **Warnings against material possessions (Luke 12:13-34)**

Jesus warned his disciples against being too concerned with riches and material possession. He taught that people should have a good relationship with God instead of worrying about earthly riches. Some of Jesus' teachings against material possessions were contained in parables.

### **Activity 2     Work with a partner.**

1. Study the picture and discuss what is happening in it.
2. Do you think wealth is bad? Explain your answer.



A man accumulating wealth

## The teachings of the sermon on the plain

Figure 4.1



Jesus teaching on the sermon on the plain

In the sermon on the plain, Jesus taught his disciples what a true disciple is. Gospel writers like Matthew refer to these teachings as the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes contain blessings, rewards and promises, as well as warnings and curses for other groups of people that lived in Jewish society at the time.

The teachings of the sermon on the plain carry a message that is still relevant to all Christians even today. The table below summarises the messages.

### The Eight Beatitudes

Table 4.1

The blessings, promises and rewards		
Group of people	Teaching directed to the group	Message and its relevance to nowadays Christians
1. The poor	'Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.' <b>Luke 6:20</b>	The poor are humble. They do not have possessions to boast about. They are often abused by the rich. They will be rewarded in the next life, although they may have hard lives in their earthly existence.
2. The hungry	'Blessed are you that	This is another disadvantaged group. They do

	<p>hunger now, for you shall be satisfied.'</p> <p><b>Luke 6:21</b></p>	<p>not have much food to eat while the rich have enough.</p> <p>Hunger in this case also refers to the willingness (the desire) to want to learn more about the Kingdom of God.</p> <p>A person wants to do the right things in the eyes of God will be blessed in the next life by God.</p>
3. Those who weep	<p>'Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh.'</p> <p><b>Luke 6:21</b></p>	<p>Being Jesus' disciple does not mean that we are excluded from hardship.</p> <p>Life throws to us difficult and painful situations that sadden us, making us miserable. We may cry when we are faced with tough situations, especially when we do not have solutions to the problems we are faced with.</p> <p>Jesus' promise is that there will come a time when things get better for us. The difficulties will be over and we will experience life differently. Weeping will be replaced by happiness and laughter.</p>
4. Those who are hated, excluded, reviled and called evil	<p>'Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man!'</p> <p><b>Luke 6:22</b></p>	<p>Some people, especially those who stand for the truth, are hated and excluded. They are insulted (called names) and seen as evil.</p> <p>For Jesus, this has to happen to his disciples. They should not expect to be loved, but should expect rejection and even persecution.</p> <p>However, there is a reward in heaven for such Christians. They must not be troubled by persecution. Instead they must be happy because God will reward them in heaven.</p> <p>Christians should remember how the Old Testament prophets were treated by the Jews to whom they were sent, but the prophets never compromised the truth.</p>
<b>The warnings and curses</b>		
5. The rich	<p>'But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation.'</p> <p><b>Luke 6:24</b></p>	<p>The rich do not lack anything. They have more than enough. They focus on the amount of wealth they have gathered and they spend their time thinking of how to make more riches. This takes away their time for God.</p> <p>Jesus laments for such people and says that they have already received their consolation – they will receive no further glories in heaven.</p>
6. Those who are full	<p>'Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger.'</p> <p><b>Luke 6:25</b></p>	<p>Being a disciple is not about being complacent. A true disciple of Jesus should always be hungry to do more, or else during Judgement Day they will realise how empty they are.</p>
7. Those who laugh	<p>'Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.'</p>	<p>This refers to people who have not taken time to be fully devoted to God's work. They use their time for pleasure.</p> <p>On the Judgement Day these people will have to</p>

	<b>Luke 6:25</b>	account for their time while on earth, and they will realise that they did not give enough time to God. God will punish them. That will be their time to mourn and weep.
8. Those well-spoken of now	‘Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.’ <b>Luke 6:26</b>	Praise and glory belong to God only. Some people make the mistake of enjoying praise and glorification coming from people. Christians should not take God’s glory and praise for themselves. Jews used to give praise and glory to false prophets but they hated the true prophets of God. A Christian must be wary of such praises and glorification.

### Activity 3 Group Work

Read the following verse and answer the question

‘Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.’ (Luke 6:25)

Do you think Jesus meant that people should not be happy? Give reasons to support your answer.

### Importance of Jesus’ teachings

- Teach on life issues
- Correct or rebukes wrong behavior like hypocrisy
- Makes one to be righteous, like forgiveness
- Guides people on how they should handle everyday issues like giving
- They bring us closer to God

### Exercise

1. Describe four of Jesus’ teachings.
2. Explain the importance of Jesus’ teachings.
3. Do you think it is easy to be humble when you are rich? Give reasons to support your answer and show that you have thought about different points of view.

### Assignment

Write a letter to your friend and tell him what your learnt about the teachings of Jesus.

## Summary

- Jesus' teachings includes the following:
  - The eight Beatitudes
  - Judging others
  - Retaliation
  - Hypocrisy
  - Warnings against material possessions
  
- Importance of Jesus' teachings include the following:
  - Teach on life issues
  - Correct or rebukes wrong behavior like hypocrisy
  - Makes one to be righteous, like forgiveness
  - Guides people on how they should handle everyday issues like giving