



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Character Shapers Series, Lesson 49

Lesson Title: New Life

Take Home Point: This body wears out—the new one will live forever.

Warm-Up:

When I was a child, every year I would eagerly make the list of items I wanted for Christmas. I knew I wouldn't get everything I wrote down, but there were always one or two items I especially desired. I remember one year I really, really wanted a pocketknife – one with several blades and a screwdriver and a can opener. My parents had limited means, but I was so excited to open a package and receive just exactly what I wanted. I planned to keep it forever. And I took really good care of it for a long time. But, of course, you know what happened. I left it out in the rain and it got rusty. Then a blade broke. Then one of the tortoise shell sides came off. No matter how much I cared, it did not last forever. Nothing in this world does. Everything physical is destined for decay. Including us.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 42-44, 51-57 (NIV)

Observation (What happened?):

What kind of changes will take place in our bodies at the resurrection of the dead?

How will we know the time of our resurrection has arrived?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that we will have a spiritual body?

What does it mean that the power of sin is the law?

Insight:

Why do we need a Savior? What's so wrong that we need someone else to heal our sin and hurt? Why is it such good news that Jesus came? In Galatians 4:4(NIV), Paul writes that, *"...when the time had fully come, God sent his Son... to redeem those under the law..."* At just the right time in history, Jesus came to earth to live, die, and rise again because we needed him to rescue us. We couldn't do it on our own at all. We were completely lost and separated from God. It's not good news because Jesus helps us help ourselves, it's good news because he did it ALL! That makes it REALLY good news of great joy! And Paul makes it clear in these verses that the work of Jesus Christ applies to everyone who ever lived, even before he came to earth. Today, as always, Satan uses cultural influences to foster a fear of death and a sense of hopelessness. That's exactly what Jesus came to defeat. He came to crush the curse of death and lead us all toward our loving Father. Read Ephesians 4:8. We are made with eternal souls that will live forever somewhere; God wants it to be with him. What an exciting prospect!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How are you preparing for your spiritual eternity with God?

Take a moment to thank God for the victory over death we have through Jesus Christ.

Kingdom Quest year 2