

## *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Food to Eat – Bible Study

John 4:31 – 38

4.5.2020

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Food to Eat – Bible Study

John 4:31 – 38

The story of the woman at the well was one of a woman shunned by her community and also reveals a great deal about the character of Christ, which is a characterization that lies within us as believers. It establishes Christ as a loving and excepting God and one that we should follow his example.

As Jesus set by Jacobs well, a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus shocked the woman, first by talking with her, second by asking her to give him a drink of water, ( God supplies the opportunity, we supply the initiative or know how ) and then by telling her, he could give her living water. ( Salvation/ Eternal Life )

As the woman grasped the reality of her encounter with Jesus, she returned to town inviting people to, ( come see a man who told me all than I ever done ).

V.31 – .... His disciples urged him...

As we look at V. 31, Christ disciples urged him to eat. Christ told them: V.32 – I have food to eat of which you do not know.

Christ was speaking of the harvest of souls. Which was food to him ( remember when Christ taught his disciples to pray, give us this day our daily bread ), delightful, refreshing, his mind and his thoughts being taken up with these things. He had no urge for material objects, things that would be opposed to his spirit.

The disciples took Jesus literally, thinking he was speaking of natural nourishment, little did they that he was trying to convey to them a deeper spiritual meaning.

The indwelling Holy Spirit places the passion within every Christian to know God and to grow spiritually. Sadly, many churches are primarily a place for social gathering, the preaching and teaching of Gods word is shallow and empty. To gain a deeper spiritual meaning we must be obedient to Gods commands.

Ephesians 5: 8 – 11, For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

God will not leave us alone in our fight with the sinfulness of the world. His promise to gain a deeper spiritual relationship with him through obedience to his word becomes apparent in our lives due to the Holy Spirit and the freedom we allow him to have to teach us greater spiritual truths.

V.34 – My food is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Our food, is to do Gods will, it nourishes us as Christians, when we live our lives according to his will.

Matthew 26: 38 – 39

.... If it is possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.

This is Christ greatest example of doing gods will.

We gain strength to do what God has given us to do, but doing what God has given us to do.

Our spiritual source of spiritual energy for doing Gods will is doing Gods will.

Luke 9: 23 – 24, ....If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself....

Gods will for man. Deny oneself, take up his cross and follow me.

To deny oneself, we must let go of anything that would hinder us from keeping and doing the will of God. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit we must place Christ and his will first in our lives. We must be willing to give up everything that he would have us to, that is not pleasing unto him in order to glorify God.

1 John 1: 5 – 10 - ... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.

In order for mankind to call upon Christ for their savior and salvation, we must first acknowledge that we need saving.

Every statement in Gods word about heaven and hell, about worldliness and Godliness, about serving God or serving the world requires us to either accept or reject, agree or disagree. Salvation allows us to align ourselves with Gods perspective in our lives. This allows us to grow and mature and become productive servants in the body of Christ.

Mans source of nourishment for the body, comes from outside ourselves. Christ gets his source of power from within himself. We learn as Christ teaches us to gain our source of power from within, from the Holy Spirit that dwells within.

The food that Christ had, that the disciples did not know about, was to give Eterna Life.

Christ source of strength to give eternal life, was to give Eterna Life.

John 7: 37 – 39 - .... If anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink.

The Holy Spirit here signified by rivers of living water, is cleansing and purifying, and comes through faith and hope in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. It is expressed in this manner due to the abundance of its regenerating power, through redemption, justification, and sanctification, it is grace for grace. This grace, Gods grace, is permanent, lasting, perpetual, always abiding, and will continue to flow to comfort the hearts of the believers and direct the saving grace of God to all who will believe.

John 14:6 - Jesus said that, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.

Christ is not merely the way, He is the only way to God.

He is the only way of salvation, due to his obedience to the Father, and his willingness to sacrifice himself for us. He is the way to all Gods blessings and his grace, as well as the way to understanding the gospel of the word. He is the way to eternal life, he entered into it himself by the shedding of his own blood, and opened the way through himself for all mankind to enter in.

Christ food was to be what he was. Christ is life, he is living water, He is bread from heaven. Christ not only eats food, he is food, Christ does not get life, he gives life.

Christ, whose food is to accomplish Gods purpose, is to give Eternal Life. He sows and the world reaps Eternal Life. God uses believers to sow and to reap, which means we are always entering into the labor of others, which includes Christ labor, and others after us will enter into our labors, and it all comes through the cross.

True worship is of a spiritual nature, which comes through the word of God.

2 Timothy 2: 8 – 15 – Study to show thyself approved.

Man looks outward, God looks inward.

Christ wanted the disciples to understand the other nourishment, the spiritual nature. He wanted them to know that their life of living with God was to do the will of God.

Spiritual nourishment is doing the will of God.

V.35 - .... The question.... Four months, and then the harvest ?

Christ was trying to get his disciples to understand,( spiritual understanding ), that they were living in the time of harvest, as we are still living in the time of the harvest. There was no seed to harvest time. The sowing had already been done by Christ himself.

There does not have to be a time of comfortable hope and longing expectation, that time had gone and now is the time to harvest.

In this case Christ told the disciples to lift their eyes and look, people were coming from the city, there was no time for eating and drinking, it was time for spiritual labor, there were souls coming to be gathered. Souls coming that needed Gods saving grace. We must lift our eyes and look, our eyes need not be fixed upon ourselves, but upon the souls coming, to be gathered, to show them Gods amazing, saving grace.

Matthew 9: 35 – 38 - .... Christ was moved with compassion.... The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Compassion for others should be one of our greatest qualities as a Christian. Sadly, the world lacks compassion and so does the church. The laborers being few is not due to a lack of Christian people, it is due to a lack of Christian people having the compassion of Christ. Sinners will not seek, they need sought, they willingly will not learn, they need taught, and they will not come to Christ, they need to be shown the way, they need to be brought. Christ and his disciples always look at the same multitude of people. The difference is that Christ saw the needs people, the disciples, could only see their own needs do to the burdensome needs of others.

Christ would like for all believers to go out to reach the lost, we are very good at finding ways to feel we are doing a great service for the lord, but yet, we are not leading anyone to Christ.

Romans 10: 1 – 4 - .... My hearts desire and prayer to God.... That they may be saved.

Although it seems as though the nation's as a whole have rejected Christ, as Christians our hearts desire should never change. That desire is to follow after what Christ stated was the two greatest commandments. To love the lord thy god with all thy heart.... To love thy neighbor as thyself.... Matthew 22: 37 – 40. Many religious and good people will miss out on salvation and eternal life, as well as the unsaved. Daily we need to pray for the salvation of others, we must not assume anything, we must pray for the Holy Spirit to convict, to take away pride and self righteousness, so that the need for salvation will be seen and sought after by all. All roads and pathways to not only to heaven. Matthew 7:13,14 - .... Broad is the way that leads to destruction.... Narrow and difficult is the way that leads to life....

God wants us to pray about everything, this includes the lost. Pray that laborers will be sent.

Romans 10: 14 – 15 - ....How shall they believe.... How shall they hear...

It is absolutely necessary that the gospel be preached. It is the will of God, by a divine commission, sent by the Lord Jesus Christ and it is that whosoever shall call upon the name lord shall be saved. True calling upon the name of God can and will not happen without faith, there is no faith without hearing, no hearing without preaching, no preaching without a divine mission. Preaching the gospel of Christ is by the ministry of his word. Through this necessity, the Holy Spirit reveals the meaning of the word, with wisdom and understanding to the outcome of salvation. We are all ministers of his word, which is made up of Christ, his grace, his mercy, his righteousness, the cross, his sacrifice and shed blood.

Few there are, they will go in Jesus name, witnessing the message of salvation.

V.36 – 38 –....he who reaps receives wages....

The reaper receives wages. The physical and emotional payoff comes at the harvest. The time of joy and happiness, having pleasure, delight, and satisfaction in their work, and the blessing is the Glory of god through the presence of Christ.

Not always do the ones that do the planting, reap the harvest, said John talks to us about unity, when it comes to sowing and reaping and gives us three things that help with this.

Christ, whose food is to accomplish Gods purpose, is to give Eternal Life. He sows and the world reaps Eternal Life. God uses believers to sow and to reap, which means we are always entering into the labor of others, which includes Christ labor, and others after us will enter into our labors, and it all comes through the cross.

V.36 – Both he who sows and he who reaps, rejoice together.

First step in spiritual unity, is interaction with one another as believers.

Spiritual interaction inspires, encourages, challenges, heals, promotes spiritual growth, sets people free, empowers others to live a Godly life.

Matthew 28: 19 – 20 .... Go therefore make disciples of all nations....

To teach and to share the doctrine of salvation, made possible by the word through the leadership of the Holy Spirit, teaching faith to those who do not believe. Faith to know Christ in the way of righteousness, peace, pardon, life, and salvation, is to believe in him, and follow him.

2<sup>nd</sup> step, our choice of personal separation from sin.

1 Peter 2: 9 – 10 ....Him who called you out of darkness...

We are now the children of God. A Spiritual church, who share a spiritual Father, called out and set apart. Set apart to serve him, to glorify him, for the purpose of his pleasure. This should drastically change the concept of how we look at ourselves. God is love, and has instilled that love within us. Before we can share that love with others, we must learn to see that love within ourselves. Gods grace, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit helps us to do just that.

As Christians we should be distinct from the ways of the world.

Personal separation from sin is being in the world, but not of the world.

John 17: 13 – 19 ... I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one....

Trials, tribulations, and discouragement oftentimes will find us asking the Lord to completely remove us away from these situations. Due to the load of the burden that we feel we must bear, Christ himself tells us, look to the word of truth. We have within us as Christians the power to endure. It is the same power of endurance that Christ had through his life's journey, the crucifixion and resurrection. V.18 – you sent me into the world, I send them into the world. Christ was sanctified of himself, we are sanctified by his word of truth. Do not pray to be removed, pray to endure, for the sake of the salvation of others.

Spiritual separation is not refusing to have contact with unbelievers, we must not always separate ourselves physically from those who do not believe. We are to minister to the unbelievers, and show Gods love to the lost.

3<sup>rd</sup> step, utilization of Gods power.

Ephesians 3: 14 – 21 .... I bow my knees to the father.... To know the love of Christ....to the power that works within us....

The Christian life is one in which Christ lives his life In, and through us utilizing the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual exercise enables us to utilize the power of God. Reading and meditating on Gods word, communication through prayer, and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to obey God in his strength and power, rather than our own.

Philippians 2:13 .... It is God who works in you, but to will and to do his good pleasure.

Gods power exceeds and surpasses everything. To rely on and utilize Gods power we must learn to quit trusting in our own efforts and trust in God.

No matter how weak we may feel at times, we can rely on the power of God. We have the assurance that God is able to do all we ask according to his power, that is at work within us.

1 Corinthians 3: 5 – 9 ... neither he who plants is anything....nor he who waters.... But God who gives the increase..... I have planted... God gave the increase.

The Lord gives to each one. As Christians we all have a special part in the body of Christ. God created us for this purpose. The purpose that he instilled within us through salvation and the indwelling holy spirit is our nourishment. It is the food that we have to eat. If we are suffering from spiritual mal nutrition, it is not because there is no food ( remember, the harvest is ready ) it is due to the lack of spiritual exercise ( praying, studying Gods word, fellowship ) that we have no ambition to reap. The bible tells us, blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness.... Matthew 5:6. God allows spiritual hunger, so that we will, reap the harvest, prepare and enjoy the blessing of the food that he has provided.

Believer should never be discouraged, if, after sharing Gods word with others, they do not respond. We should rejoice that God allowed us the opportunity to do so.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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