

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

1.10.2021

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.

The Flour and the Oil

1 Kings 17: 8 – 15

Our personal ministry and outreach to others may seem wearisome at times, but it is not without importance to God. The events that take place in our lives, according to the will of God, are but tools in the sight of the almighty. God not only uses these events to get our attention, but to change our values, our character, our priorities and pursuits, and above all, to secure our trust in him. These are opportunities of our ministry in proclaiming the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4: 8 – 10,....we are hard-pressed on every side....perplexed....persecuted....struck down....always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our body....

We are not placed upon this earth just for ourselves. Our needs become the means of meeting the needs in the lives of others. God cares for us, God cares for all mankind. He often times seeks, to minister to the needs of others through the character changes, that he is bringing about in our lives.

1 Kings 17: 14,....for thus says the Lord God of Israel, the bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth....

God continually works in our life to build our faith in him. How a person excels in a small task is an indication of how well we will handle the larger tasks. Our faithfulness through the small things, will help us to see who is really in control of our life, and will help us in our preparation of the larger duties that God has in store for us in our life.

Luke 16: 10,....he who is faithful in what is least, is faithful also in much, and he who is unjust in what is least, is unjust also in much....

As believers we tend to measure the things that God is doing in our lives. Sadly, we measure such things according to the natural man, by what we see through worldly eyes. We tend to look at human conditions as a basis for our confidence in life. We are walking by sight, not by faith. Thankfully, our circumstances cannot change God's faithfulness or omnipotence towards us. So therefore we trust in the promises of God and his word. We must respond to God rather than reacting to ourselves. This allows us to feel compassion for the needs of others. God is faithful, God is powerful, God is truly concerned about the needs of all humanity, and that need is salvation.

2 Corinthians 5: 7,....for we walk by faith, not by sight....

Justification is God's gift of grace to the sinner. Sanctification is God's continued gift of grace to the believer. Sinners cannot earn salvation through works. Believers cannot have a Christlike life through the deeds of the flesh. So therefore, we are saved by faith, we live by faith, we walk by faith. By faith we accept the truth of God, by his word we have the assurance, that the hope of our salvation will come to pass, eternally.

Hebrews 11: 6,....but without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him....

Walking by faith means relying completely on God, and all that he has given unto us through his word. We are to use trials, tribulations, and persecutions as stepping stones in our lives, due to the fact that through our faith in Christ, we allow God to take these obstacles, and to change them into opportunities that will help us to remain in his love, his grace, and his mercy, so that we may give Godly comfort to the hearts of the lives of others who face similar difficulties in their life. We come to understand that faith is not only required for us to understand and accept Gods saving grace, but is also a necessity for us to live a victorious Christian life.

Not only do we see and learn about our faith in God through this passage of scripture, we also learn what it takes to find true satisfaction in our life in Christ. God had promised to the widow, the flour would never run out, and the oil would never run dry. In our Christian life, to often we expect our cup to always be full and running over, and when it is not we began to give up.

Psalm 23: 5,....you prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies, you anoint my head with oil, my cup runneth over....

In this case, as it is in many instances in our life, there is no mention of either container being full and running over. There is, however, the promise, that the containers would not be used up or run dry. This is due to the choices that we make in our Christian life.

Psalm 23: 3 – 4,....he leads me in the paths of righteousness, for his name sake....yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil....

Notice that where God leads us and, where that we are walking, are two different pathways. Even though David the Psalmist gives us this description of the choices that we make in life, he also tells us that God is still with us, thy rod, and thy staff they comfort me. In this life that we live there will be times that we will wonder if there is enough in the barrel to take care of our needs. As Christians, we must learn to serve the needs of others, no matter what we think to be the status of our fulfillment in the Lord. Through faith God will supply the need.

Matthew 6: 33,....but seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you....

Philippians 4: 19,....but my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory....

We must learn that, to be satisfied in God, means to be content, completed and fulfilled. This satisfaction has nothing to do with quantity.

Philippians 4: 11,....for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content....

John 10: 10,....I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly....

Abundant life in Christ means, loving the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and loving thy neighbor as thyself. Worldly blindness will oftentimes bring us to a place in our lives where we may want to say, that we only have a handful of flour and a little oil in a jar, and we are going to prepare it, eat it, and die. Through faith in God, and by his word, he has promised unto us, that our bin of flour, our daily bread which is the word of God, will never, and can never be used up. And our jar of oil, the anointing of the indwelling Holy Spirit, will never run dry until the Lord sends rain upon the earth.

1 Kings 17: 15,....so she went away and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days....

Believing upon the word of the Lord and acting upon it, is the key to our life as a Christian. Our obedience to Gods word will result in his grace, his provision, and his power in our lives. As a result, we will be blessed, others will come to have faith in God and believe upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and God will be glorified. The importance to read, study, meditate and pray concerning Gods word will become a great importance in our life, so that we will not act upon our own foolish imagination, but that we might continue in our life, in the truth that, we are his creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared a head of time for us, to walk in, according to his praise and to his glory.

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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