

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.4.2020

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 God's word.

Abijah Challenges King Jeroboam

2 Chronicles 13: 3 – 1

Humanity cannot point to specific situations that shows when God has stepped in and worked in their life. Believers on the other hand, should have a deep understanding of what God has done in their lives, due to the fact, that we have experienced, God answering our prayers, very directly and we can rest assured that God is in control of our lives. He guides us through life changing events in order, to show unto us his awesome greatness and power. As part of being a believer, God works in our life through the things that we do and the things that we say. We experience Gods love and guidance as we conform to his desire for us to share the gospel of his saving grace with others. We are God's source of encouragement and love to a sinful world as we become an example unto all, of how that we ought to put God first in our life and live for him. It is our faith and obedience that is the key to seeing God work in our lives.

2 Chronicles 13: 3,....Abijah set the battle in array....Jeroboam also set the battle in array....

In this week's lesson we will see that God uses all types, and kinds of people to fulfill his purposes. God can even use people who are not serving him, to accomplish his will. The Godly and ungodly alike are in his hand, and he will use them for his intent and purposes. Despite having sinfulness in our life, as believers, we are still under God's covenant, which means that he requires our obedience in his word.

1 John 5: 2 – 3,....this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments....

A true test of Gods love in our life is our willingness to be obedient to his word. As we walk in the way of his obedience, we will follow after his example to become Christlike.

2 Chronicles 13: 4 – 5,....and Abijah stood up....and said, hear me....ought ye not to know that the Lord God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David forever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt....

So let's first talk a moment about the covenant of salt. Salt in the days of old was a precious commodity. Its usefulness was not only to preserve, but it was used to express promises made, it was used in sworn agreements between two parties, and it was used to legally bind an agreement or contract. A salt covenant also carried a great deal of meaning because of the value of salt. A man's earnings is said to be worth his salt. Salt had an enduring quality, so spiritually its meaning was all about a relationship with God, based upon trust. This trusting relationship with God is seen in our actions, which comes through a life changing experience with his Son, Jesus Christ. How does this happen. In sin we were living to self and dying to God. The crucifixion and the resurrection allowed us to enter, into a salt covenant with God, which preserves us, in him, for all eternity. This is because our life is a choice to be made and we must serve somebody, and this choice must be made.

Matthew 5: 13,....ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted, it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men....

Salt permanently changes the characteristic of what it is applied too. Christ call to us through salvation is to help to preserve humanity from falling into and continuing in a state of Godlessness and immaturity. Christ compares our spiritual qualities to salt. Salt, which is not one hundred percent pure because it can be diluted and contaminated, and in this state, although it can still be used as salt, it does not have the unique qualities to be as effective as it should be. Christ tells us through his word, that the same thing can happen with us if we stop living faithfully for him and trusting in him. Although we cannot lose our salvation, our salvation can lose its true purpose. Speaking the truth of the saving grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all of humanity, shows that our salt has not lost its savor. We must live our life to the Lord and to the true glory of the Father, so that we do not waste this precious, valuable commodity that God has bestowed upon us.

2 Chronicles 13: 6 – 9,.....yet Jeroboam....hath rebelled against the Lord....and now you think to withstand the kingdom of the Lord....have ye not cast out the priest of the Lord....and have made priest after the manner of the nations of other lands....

Humanity, no matter how good God is, always seems to find a way to oppose him. It seems, as though mankind intentionally creates ways to sin against the merciful, gracious qualities, of God's love, rather than acknowledging, and worshipping God as creator of all things. Mankind instead feels the need to worship the things that God has created. Humanity fails to understand the value of the worth of a man in the eyes of an almighty God. So therefore, man begins to question the meaning of life, and begins to doubt any belief that they may have had in God. So, instead of being stewards of God, we begin to rebel against God. As Gods creation, we need to listen to him, and be obedient to him and his word. If we rebel against him, then essentially, we are rejecting him.

Psalms 78: 56 – 57,.....yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies, but turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers, they were turned aside like a deceitful bow....

According to the word of God, anything that is incompatible with the righteousness of God, and all things that are contrary to his word, is rebellion against God. Rebellion against God is going against his will and lacking God's desire in our heart which is being disobedient to and forsaking the word of God. God's will, would be for us to pursue the truth of his word, which starts with salvation. Once saved, God now requires us to perform our duties faithfully, especially when facing trials, tribulations, and difficulties in our life. Through accepting salvation, we enter, into a reality of the truth of his word, so that we may be effective in our life for him. As believers, what we come to realize is that often times we unknowingly rebel against God, while mistakenly believing that through our spiritual standing, we are incapable of rebellion. As Christians we must not become satisfied with just keeping outward practices and following specific rules and regulations, but we must desire to put forth our effort into the obedience of God's word, and to uphold his righteousness in all circumstances in our lives.

2 Chronicles 13: 10 – 12,....but as for us the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken him....and, behold, God himself is with us....fight ye not against the Lord God....for ye shall not prosper....

The most important life choice that we will ever make, is to choose between the world and God. This choice challenges us as believers to examine ourselves and to see if we are truly trusting in God and putting our faith in him. To see if we are truly walking in spirit and in truth. There are times when we serve the Lord with gladness, and then there are times when we grumble and complain as we live our life as a Christian. There must be no comparison to our faith because the Lord will not share his glory, and therefore encourages all humanity to make the right choice. Choosing the Lord should never be postponed or hidden behind a comfortable religious membership, it should be viewed as the most important decision that mankind will ever make.

Matthew 16: 24,....then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.....

The word of God calls all believers to make the choice to become Christlike. This is the choice that we make to really get to know him, to learn of him, and to, follow after him. A true believer not only believes in Christ for salvation, but also continues to trust in him that he will break the control of the power of sin in our lives so that our faith may grow, and that we may continue to mature spiritually in our lives, so that others may see the righteousness of God within us and through us. Therefore, it is more than just giving up the things of the world that control our lives, it is giving up ourselves wholly and completely to the Lord. We must never forget that the suffering that we bear in Christ, leads us into the glory of God.

2 Chronicles 13: 13 – 18,....and the children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand....and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the Lord God....

There will always be situations in our spiritual life that will seem impossible. It is at these times that we, in our lives must realize that we need the mighty work of Gods saving grace. We see the power of the indwelling sinfulness, but we still fall prey to its deceptiveness. There is only one who can help and that is the Lord himself. It is the reality of the truth of his word that gives light unto our darkest situations. When we realize that we can no longer help ourselves, and that the world cannot deliver us, and when we think all hope is gone, remember that there is still an almighty God. The Lord always works through ways that will seem impossible to us and that is because the reality of our impossibility cannot compare to the almighty power of God. God himself does what we cannot do, which is the reality of our deliverance in him. Those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, and those who wait upon the Lord will not be put to shame. In our everyday life, the Lord will lead us into these impossible situations to show unto us his great power, so that he may deliver us from our every need.

Mark 10: 27,....and Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible....

Only God can save us, for it is impossible for us to inherit eternal life on our own. Even though humanity struggles with this concept, everyone who is, and has been or will be saved, is saved by grace through faith in Christ. Anyone who comes to faith in Christ will find salvation, because Christ did not come to call the righteous, but the sinners to accept his free gift of salvation.

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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