

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.15.2021

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 God's word.

Jesus Corrects and Commands John

Matthew 11: 1 – 15

As believers, there will be times in our lives, that doubt will arise. Times when we will feel that Christ is not meeting our personal expectations. And even though Christ is the only way to the Father, because of our lack of faith, and disbelief, we now allow him to become a stumbling block in our attempts to reach out to God. This is because we assume, that because we want something to happen, that Christ is going to make happen. We must learn that our assumptions are part of our erring nature and can be wrong. For every believer, there will come a time of trial and tribulation, and along with that will come a moment of doubt, concerning God's mercy and grace. Christ uses these times in our lives to prepare us for the things that lie ahead in our lives, while at the same time, placing the truth of God and his word in our hearts, which is to sustain us in our times of heartache and grief.

2 Peter 3: 3 – 5,....there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lust, and saying, where is the promise of his coming....for this they willingly are ignorant....

False teachings and deception will lead many away from the truth. By studying the word, we are encouraged not to waiver in our beliefs, but to continue to live in a manner that we know to be true to God's word. The world around us seems to be going on as it always has, believing that nothing is going to change. God has given unto man an additional allotment of time to accept his gracious opportunity to be saved. His desire is that as many people as possible would come to repentance and place their trust in his Son, Christ. Judgement will eventually come, so how should we as Christians, be living our life. Instead of indulging in the sinfulness of the world without fear of having any consequences, as false teachings would suggest, we should lead Godly lives, directed by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. False teachings, twist the word of God, so we as believers are responsible to resist being led away from the truth. We must always strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11: 1 – 3,....it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples he departed thence to teach and to preach in the cities....when John had heard....the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, art thou he that should come, or do we look for another....

We start off by looking at Christ example to his disciples, to teach and to preach the saving grace of his word. This is one of the first true test of our salvation as believers. It requires us to make a total commitment to Christ, and to rely totally upon his protection, and the ability to provide our every need. The word gives unto us spiritual guidelines for our work in the Lord, along with specific instructions that will apply to our own individual situations.

Matthew 9: 37 – 38,....then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few, pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest....

Christ compassion for humanity inspires us to see the many people that are searching and seeking to believe. This will encourage us to understand their needs, and their desire, to be rescued from their helpless condition and state of mind in which they live, and to show unto them Gods given peace, joy, and hope of eternal life. As believers, we need to be reaching out to the unsaved, seeing them just as Christ did, and that is, a people who are tormented by their past, exhausted, living in their present state of mind, and frightened by what their future holds. Harvesting a crop requires great effort. It takes patience and perseverance, qualities that we possess through the indwelling Holy Spirit, that we must put into action, for it is our responsibility to share God's word with these who do not know Christ.

Next, we will look at Johns question....

Matthew 11: 3,....art thou he that should come, or do we look for another....

No matter how mature we are in the Lord, we may still, at times have moments of confusion, especially when we find our faith being tested. The word assures us that in these troubled times, what we feel does not mean that we have lost our faith, it simply means that we need to seek God more diligently for answers. Through these things we will learn to maintain our Godly character, our faithfulness, and honesty in our motives. As we learn to work through our struggles, we will find out that we will steadily grow in our faith, and in our maturity in the Lord.

Matthew 11: 4 – 6,....Jesus answered and said unto them, go and show John again these things which ye do hear and see....and blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me....

Like John, often times, we respond to what we hear others say about the word of God instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to direct us in the truth. We are instructed to follow after those things which we have witnessed in accordance too the word of truth, and not to fall prey to deceptive, worldly heresies.

Philippians 4: 9,....those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, an seen in me, do, and the God of peace shall be with you....

God's instructions are not merely meant to be known, or agreed to, they are meant to be put into action. Following God's instruction allows us to experience incredible peace, as we fellowship with him. As true servants of God, and by, following after his word obediently, we then will be able to trust that the decisions that we make, and the outcome of these decisions are being directed by God. We do not need to be anxious for anything if we are faithfully following him.

Matthew 11: 7 – 10,....as they departed, Jesus began to say....what went ye out into the wilderness to see....a reed shaken....a man clothed....a prophet....for this is he....behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee....

Believers are portrayed today as John was then and that is God speaking through us to humanity. The focus of this communication is not of ourselves, but of the coming of Jesus Christ and him crucified. Our primary purpose is to announce Christ. We are his spokesperson, to be used for the primary purpose of calling sinners to repentance, and forewarning them of the consequences, if they are unfaithful.

Isaiah 40: 3,....the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God....

As Christians, we have the responsibility to be the ones crying out the message of salvation to a lost and sinful world. Through salvation we have been commissioned to teach and to preach the word of God to all those who will hear by declaring the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11: 11 – 15,....among them that are born....there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist, notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom is greater than he....if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come....

As Christians, we are challenged to live diligently for the Lord. God does not force himself on us, so we must produce works of faith, never forgetting that it is all the gift of God. Daily, God gives unto us greater and greater opportunities to spread the word of salvation. We should stay focused on our mission, not wavering, but standing up and speaking the truth, remembering that greatness with God is determined by our faithfulness. We are now the ones who can turn the hearts of many unto the Lord, we are those whom God has sent to prepare the way of the Lord. God has given unto us through his word, the ability to speak with all the power and authority that was given unto the prophets of old, by and through his Son, Jesus Christ. This is due to our being saved by grace, through faith in Christ with him being fulfilled in our life, we are hid with him in God, part of the new creation in Christ.

Malachi 3: 1,....behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in, behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts....

Like John, we should be known for our courage in preparing the way of salvation. Also, like John, we will experience times of trial and doubt. When these times of doubt arise in our life, we must have the humility to express these doubts, turning to Christ, and not away from him. We must look beyond our limited expectations and achieve the greatness of Christ, by faithfully fulfilling our God given purposes in this world.

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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