

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

2.27.2022

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.

What Doest Thou Here Part 1

1 Kings 19: 11 – 14

1 Kings 19: 1 – 4

As Christians, we know that God will do what he has promised us that he will do. Often time, we wonder how that this is going to happen when humanity lives in the captivity of worldly sinfulness. Gods promises are revealed to the world as he works through the faithful members of the body of Christ. In times past, God taught mankind, by the use of overwhelming forces of his power, but no amount of this display of his power was able to build the kingdom of God. But now that this time has passed, God speaks to all through a quiet whisper from the cross. It is only because of what God has done through Christ at the cross that the kingdom of God has been established within the church.

Luke 9: 54 – 56,....his disciples....said....Lord wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them....he turned and rebuked them, and said, ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of....for the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them....

As believers, what are we called by God to do, regarding those who allow worldly sinfulness to control their lives. We are to be in the world, but we are not to be a part of the world. It is the love of Christ that compels us to guard against worldly corruption. In doing so, we are called to show compassion for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we struggle to hold fast to God's love when we face worldly hostility, and this will cause us to react with condemnation. This then shows a lack of the love of God, and a lack of spiritual compassion. Our purpose, as taught to us by Christ, should be one of salvation, and not one to bring judgement upon one another. To do this, we must prayerfully consider how that the gospel of Christ will change our characteristics and control our actions. This is due to the fact that a lot of times, when we are faced with worldly hostility, we want to react to this hostility with our own worldly emotions and our own sense of power, when we should respond appropriately with mercy, grace, love, and the compassion of Christ. So, as we see events that are happening in the world today, how do we, as believers, react in response to what we feel, is the reasoning, behind who or what is controlling these events.

1 Kings 19: 11 – 14,....and he said, go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by....a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind....and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake....and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire....and after the fire a still small voice....and it was so, when Elijah heard it that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave....and behold, there came a voice unto him, and he said, what doest thou here, Elijah....

Before we can come to an understanding, of the importance, of our God given spiritual abilities, which are those abilities that empower our spiritual maturity by the indwelling spirit of God, we must learn the importance of this understanding, so that we may see the truth in all that God has done, all that God is doing, and all that God will continue to do. Before we can come to this understanding, we must answer the same question that God asked Elijah, not once, but twice, what doest thou here.

Why is it that as believers we live our lives here upon this earth, that we find ourselves in such a confusing, spiritual state of mind.

So, lets go back to the first part of chapter 19 and try to answer this question.

1 Kings 19: 1 – 4,....Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done....Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, so let the gods do to me and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them....when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life....went a days journey into the wilderness....he requested for himself that he might die, and said, it is enough, now, O Lord, take away my life....

In our life as believers, we are going to experience victories and we are also going to experience trials and tribulations. Through worldly deception, Satan is going to tell us that those things which we are experiencing is not just trials and tribulations, but defeat. Make no mistake, that once we are covered by the blood of Christ, through faith believing, we cannot be defeated. We may allow Satan, at times, to deceive us into believing that due to a lack of faith and trust in God that we are defeated, but we are not defeated.

2 Corinthians 4: 8 – 10,....We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed, we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus....

Elijah had just experienced a great victory over Satan and his followers, and he could have only done this by the power of God. When we choose to recognize God's power in our lives, it is then that we experience the greatness of that power, and God grants unto us the victory over the worldly struggles that we have going on within. Like Elijah, we have experienced defeating the enemy, and even though we experienced a victory, we must not let down our guard because the battle is not over. The battle between worldliness and godliness is never over, and if we let down our guard, even for just a brief period of time, Satan is already attacking, and if we do not stay rooted and grounded in the word of God our faith will begin to waiver and we will find ourselves troubled, perplexed and even persecuted. If we become careless in our obedience to the word of God, allowing worldly fear to take over our emotions, then we will continue to journey deeper into worldliness until we are convinced that we are all alone and without God. Satan will then deceive us, even to the point that we will believe that we have died spiritually and are of no service to God. We might want to give up, but we must remember that God never gives up on us. He did not send his only begotten Son into the world so that we might give up. Christ came so that we might have life and have it more abundantly. So, we find ourselves asking, why have we allowed ourselves to be deceived in such a way that we would choose worldly fear over the mighty power of God.

Psalm 23: 4,....yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me....

If we will choose to follow after the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, in obedience to Gods word, then and only then will the valley of the shadow of death become the pathway to eternal life, and peace of mind in God. So why is it that we cannot be defeated, it is because of Christ saving grace in which we have believed. God is always with us, because he dwells within us, and his rod and his staff, they comfort us. Our, decision making abilities are dependent upon the staff of God. It is in this, and with this, that God allows us to find rest in him, and feel at peace with him, and continue to go in the direction that he would have us to go. Our purpose within the family of God, rests within the rod. It assures us that we will have an eternal presence with him, it is our protection, as well as a method of discipline and correction, and our source of comfort and endless, faithful love.

So, what doest thou here. Is it due to selfish, worldly, emotional choices that was made due to disobedience to the word, which, if we allow, will bring about a lack of faith and trust in God, or are we learning through it all, learning understanding, growing in faith, and maturing spiritually in our life in Christ. The choice is up to us.

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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