

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

3.6.2022

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 2

1 Kings 19: 11 – 14

1 Kings 19: 5 – 10

Even servants of God, at times, will experience discouragement, which, if it persists could lead to one withdrawing from their spiritual calling. We live in a world that will increasingly overwhelm us with terror and fear if we allow emotional distress to overcome us. Struggles are an unavoidable part of life and can become very burdensome. Thankfully, God, through his mercy and grace will renew and restore such an one to his ministry, as we once again look to him for his leadership and guidance in our life. Casting our burdens upon the Lord, by faith believing, trusting in him, and becoming obedient to his word will strengthen our hearts so that we will let God control our lives. Regardless of our situation and circumstances, we know that if God was willing to give his Son to die for us, he will give unto us that which is needed to sustain us, in the midst of life's trials and tribulations. So, no matter what the cause of our cares and anxiety, God calls us to cast all our cares upon him, for he careth for us.

Galatians 6: 1,....brethern, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted....

Even Christians can and do sin. Putting our trust in Christ brings with it a commitment to stop living according to our worldly fear, which will pull us away from following the spirit of God. This does not mean that we are no longer in Christ, it simply means that we need spiritual help. In Elijah's case, that spiritual help came from an angel of the Lord. In the body of Christ, this help will come a lot of times from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

1 Kings 19: 5 – 10,....as he lay and slept....behold....an angel touched him, and said unto him, arise and eat....a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head....and he did eat and drink, and laid him down again....the angel of the Lord came again....and touched him, and said, arise and eat, because the journey is too great for thee....he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength....forty days and forty nights....he came....unto a cave and lodged there....the word of the Lord came to him, and he said....what doest thou here....and he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God....the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant....and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away....

We start off today where we left off last week, and that is pondering in our heart the question, what doest thou here. Last week we looked at our own reasoning behind why that we sometimes live in such a confusing, fragile, spiritual, state of mind. Today we are going to look at how God is going to teach us understanding through the trials and tribulations in our lives, so that we may grow in faith, and spiritual maturity. We see, that as Elijah lay and slept, an angel touched him and said, arise and eat. The word tells us that spiritually the church sleeps. This means that we have become insensitive to our relationship with Christ, and we are not paying attention to our spiritual responsibilities. We sleep when we are lured away into worldliness, which causes us to be more concerned with ordinary, self centered pursuits than with the spiritual work of God.

Luke 21: 34 – 36,....take heed to yourselves, lest at anytime your hearts be overcharged....so that day come upon you unaware....watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy....to stand before the Son of man....

Christ one day will return for his church, and for this reason we are to be faithful servants when we are called to be holy. We are to look to Christ, because this is our hope in the midst of our trials and tribulations. Therefore, we must trust in Christ so that we may not be found sleeping at his coming.

1 Kings 19: 5, 7,....arise and eat....arise and eat....because the journey is too great for thee....

Twice, Elijah was told to arise and eat. When God, through our disobedience, allows us to come into the place of confusion, despair, and self-pity, he is preparing us to go through a time of learning and understanding. What better way to bring us back into the place in which we need to be, than to nourish us with his word, and then quenching our spiritual thirst with the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Without the Father, the Son, which is the word, and the Holy Spirit, which is the water, the journey of our life would be too great for us to bear. How ironic that Jezebel, or the world, sent a messenger of death, but God always send a messenger of life. As we begin to allow the word to nourish and strengthen us, and the fruit of the spirit to quinch our spiritual thirst, then are we able to walk in the strength of the will and desire of the power of God.

John 6: 33, 35,....for the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world....Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life, he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst....

Even as Christians, often time we misunderstand the deeper meaning of Christ and his word. We follow Christ for all the wrong reasons, we seek to satisfy our physical appetite, and we tend to neglect our spiritual hunger that feeds the soul. Christ will, if we will follow after him, strengthen and sustain us by his everlasting, life giving power. Through his mercy and grace, he will provide each one of us our daily bread, through his life-giving spirit.

1 Kings 19: 8 – 10,....he arose....and went in the strength of that meat....and came thither unto a cave....and the word of the Lord came....and....said....what doest thou here....he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord....for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant....I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away....

Often time, our view of reality becomes distorted. We become quick to blame others for the situations we find our selves in, instead of loving one another. But, even in our time of disobedience and troubles, God will respond in a positive way. Sadly, what he deems as positive, we feel is heartache, forgetting that there must be consequences to our disobedience, for this reason he calls us on a journey into the wilderness, but will continue to provide us with that which we need to spiritually survive. This journey, if we follow after the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, will help us to gain spiritual perspective in our lives, and reevaluate our purpose and service to God.

Psalm 42: 11,....why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me, hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God....

Every believer will have those times when we will feel cast down or stuck in a situation that we cannot see a way out. When this happens, if we will turn to God, he will help us to know what it is that we need to do. God reminds us, that he is the health of our countenance, which means that he is the solution to our needs. We must turn to God for our hope, and the resolution to whatever is disquieting our souls. So, what doest thou here. As we make the choice to seek the will of God, we are learning, and we are growing in our faith and spiritual maturity. We come to realize through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit that there is more to our life in Christ than what we believe to be spiritual wisdom and knowledge that we have retained, we need understanding. As we gain understanding from God, through his word, our life will begin to become more complete in Christ. This will lead us into a spiritual realm with Christ where we can resist the selfishness of our worldly nature, which can only lead to self-pity and self-righteousness, then will we begin to trust in the Lord, and allow him to make our pathway straight.

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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