

## *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

3.13.2022

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 3

### **1 Kings 19: 11 – 14**

The word of God gives unto us many examples of how that God uses mankind to accomplish his will. The requirement to be a chosen worker is all about our willingness and desire to serve him. It has nothing to do with worldly talent or abilities. Wisdom, knowledge, and experience are not effective without a humble, submissive heart. One of the greatest tragedies that we will experience in our life as a believer is to go through our life in Christ without discovering God's purpose and meaning for our life. We were created for a purpose, and we were made to have meaning. Following Christ is a decision that each one must choose to take. Through the word we come to understand that there is a big difference between knowing about Christ and knowing Christ personally. When we come to know Christ, it changes our desires and helps us to focus on his will for our life. Christ, then graciously begins to work on our immaturity and gradually begins to teach us that following after him means denying oneself, taking up our cross, and following him. There is far more about Christ than we can ever know, so we strive daily to become Christlike.

**1 Peter 2: 21,....**even here unto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps....

Following Christ will often lead to suffering, it is not that God has abandoned us, because suffering for doing what is right indicates, that through our suffering we are going in the right direction. Many believe that becoming a Christian guarantees us a life of simplicity, but the spiritual life in which Christ has called us is not a very easy path to walk. Suffering is our mission in life, suffering for righteousness's sake glorifies our Father which is in heaven. Christ gives unto us an example of how to live, and that example shows us not to live in self-righteousness but in doing those things that are of the will of God. Our position in Christ is a motivation to live Godly lives, and a Godly life is only lived as we are obedient to the word of God and use it for our learning. As we abide in him and he in us, we become a reflection of Christ.

**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....he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord....the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant....and I....only, am left, and they seek my life....

Bringing ourselves before God has a way of putting things into perspective. In doing so, God will then give unto us instruction. Often time, to give unto us this instruction, he must get our attention so that when he speaks, we will listen. This, he will sometimes do, through dramatic events that may at the time seem harsh and unfair, but is necessary, to claim our undivided attention, so that we may hear the still quiet voice through which he speaks. Make no mistake, that God's presence in the stillness, is just as real and powerful, as it is in the dramatic events that he allows to take place in the world around us. Gods' instruction to us, is always one in the same, and that is to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and love thy neighbor as thyself. Our commission is that of one like as is given unto the disciples of Christ. In recognizing this, we will understand that Gods eternal plan far exceeds any individual effort that we could ever put forth. For this reason, we need not trust in ourselves to the point that we become easily discouraged, for we are far from being the only people committed to serving Gods divine cause.

**1 Peter 5: 6 – 10**,....humble yourselves....under the mighty hand of God....casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you....because your adversary the devil....walketh about, seeking whom he may devour....whom resist steadfast in the faith....the God of all grace....after ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you....

All Christians long to be glorified, to know that we are significant, and that we make a difference. We are taught in the word to stop struggling so hard to make things happen, and trust in God to exalt us at the right time and place, as he sees fit. For this to happen, we must put on humility, which is our proper appreciation in our relationship with God. Now, when expressing humility, our natural, emotional, human fear will tell us that we are wasting our lives, and for this reason we must take all of our anxieties and worries, and give them unto God, for he cares deeply for us. In doing so, God provides us an end to suffering. Suffering is not a matter of choice, but the consequences of our faith in Christ. Suffering is real but will one day come to an end through our eternal salvation. For this reason, we do not pray that God would remove us from this suffering, but that he would keep us safe, and strengthen us through it.

Our suffering for the glory of God has not only eternal value, but also eternal benefits, which will establish us, strengthen us, and perfect us. This will help us to grow in faith and in spiritual maturity. All this stems from study and meditation of the word of God.

**Romans 15: 4**,....for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope....

All scripture is to bring encouragement and hope to help us to endure through our suffering. For this reason, we must place our spiritual value on the word of God and seek out the encouragement and hope that he has instilled within others. It is the word of God that was written for our learning that points humanity in the way of salvation. It shows unto us God's mercy and grace, and explains his glorious, redemptive plan and purpose for humanity. Even though we live in a fallen world, and will always be faced with trials, temptations, and difficulties, we patiently endure, and have a hope that is founded upon nothing less than Christ and his perfect righteousness, which is instilled within us through his word.

**Jerimiah 28: 11**,....for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end....

God uses many events to renew his weary, discouraged church. His gift of the word, and the indwelling Holy Spirit is given to sustain us through our feelings of frustration and reassure us of his divine purpose and plans as he instructs us in performing his specific tasks on his behalf. God does not want us to give up and go and hide in a cave, instead he brings us back into his will by asking us what we are doing here. This reminds us that we have been created for a purpose, and that there is work for us to do. By listening to his still small voice, we know that we are not alone.

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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