

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.16.2023

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 that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

A Warning for the Hard - Hearted

Luke 16: 19 – 31

A hardened heart can diminish a person's ability to perceive and to understand that which is God's will for their life. This is because we fail to remember the many times that God has graciously provided for us in our time of need. We must not forget that God has promised that he does not leave us, nor does he forsake us.

Deuteronomy 31: 6,....be strong and of good courage, fear not....for the Lord thy God....he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee....

Hebrews 13: 5,....be content....I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee....

If we allow sinfulness to remain, it will cause our hearts to grow hard, especially those things that we continually do that is not pleasing unto God. But God will help us to see these sinful desires in our heart, when we ask him, by faith believing, to reveal them unto us, by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Once that we recognize our disobedience, and repent, it is then that God is faithful and just to forgive us.

1 John 1: 9,....if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness....

Now, this is just the beginning of how that God heals the hard – hearted. As Christians, we now must begin living according to Gods word, through study, through prayer, through meditation, we begin to gain wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, which will bring us into the obedience of his word.

Psalms 119: 9 – 11,....wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word....let me not wander from thy commandments....thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee....

If we are to live our life to the fullness of that which God has intended for us to live, then we must be obedient to his word. No one is immune to deception, trials, or tribulations, but everyone can be strengthened because of these circumstances in their life, if we will allow God to work within us.

Romans 5: 3 – 5,....we glory in tribulation....tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience, and hope: and hope maketh not ashamed....

Roman 1: 16,....for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth....

Luke 16: 19 – 26,....there was a certain rich man....there was a beggar named Lazarus....it came to pass the beggar died....the rich man also died....in hell he lift up his eyes in torment....he cried....have mercy on me, and send Lazarus....and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame....Abraham said remember....thy good things, and....Lazarus evil things....now he is comforted, and thou art tormented....

Everyone eventually passes from this earth, from mortality into immortality. Everything contained within the word of God is written to prepare us for this moment in our life. Preparation has nothing to do with our worldly stature as some might think, but it has everything to do with the choices in which we make concerning following after the truth of God's word. Therefore, whether we are rich or poor, well-educated or not, members of a religious organization or church, good or bad in our worldly characteristics, none of these things have any bearing on our eternal state. That which does make a difference, is whether or not we have depended upon God, and heeded to his warnings, concerning the choices which we must make, choices to believe in the work that God has accomplished in Christ, through the crucifixion and the resurrection. This work was not only for all of mankind's saving grace and eternal state of being, but it was also to give unto all believers guidance, for the life that he has intended for us to live while we are here upon this earth, once we have made the choice to follow after Christ.

Proverbs 28: 14,....happy is the man that feareth always, but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief....

Zecharia 7: 12,....they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law....therefore came a great wrath from the Lord....

A man with a hardened heart will not, by faith believing, put their trust in the Lord. For it is by the heart that we either grasp or reject the spiritual truths that God desires to share with us.

Matthew 13: 14 – 15,....the prophesy of Esaias....by hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand, and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive....their ears are dull of hearing....their eyes they have closed....lest....they should understand with their heart, and convert...

Isaiah 6: 9 – 10,....hear ye indeed, but understand not....see ye indeed, but perceive not....shut their eyes, lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert....

A hardened heart will prevent us from understanding the life-giving, life-altering, challenging words that God wants to share with us through the Holy Spirit. Lack of understanding means failing to understand God's will. God wants to use those who have believed in his Son, Christ, to further the gospel of salvation. He cannot use us if we allow sin to dwell within us and harden our hearts. If we abide in him and live obedient to his word through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is then that the work which he has begun within us through salvation, he will perform it until the day of Christ.

Philippians 1: 6,....being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ....

Luke 16: 27 – 31,....I pray thee....send him to my father's house....that he may testify....they have the prophets....let them hear them....but if one went from the dead, they will repent....if they hear not....the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead....

What is needed to be born again? Faith is needed, which comes from obedience to the word of God.

Romans 10: 17,....so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God....

If, as Christians, we are not obedient to the truth of God's word and allow it to make the necessary changes in our life that God wants to make, it is then that this continued hearing without heeding allows a hardness to set into our hearts, a hardness that disrupts our relationship with God.

2 Peter 1: 3 – 4,....his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him....whereby are given....great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature....

As Christians, our human nature, when we allow it to do so, will take us into situations that we will have no other choice but to rest our faith on the promises of God. If we do not rest our faith on his promises, then because of hardness of heart, we will have to live our lives in worldly frustration. The sooner that we commit to God and stay committed to God, the sooner that we will live in the joy and peace of his righteousness. The word of God contains everything that we need, so that we may come to know, and understand the truth of our 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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