

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.13.2023

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. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

A Story of Forgiveness

## **Luke 15: 11 - 24**

True forgiveness can only come from God the Father, through Christ the Son. To find true forgiveness we must first admit that we believe in the Son of God, who by his work on the cross, pardoned our sin debt and extended unto us his righteousness, so that we might experience true forgiveness. God forgives us on the basis of the sacrifice of his Son, therefore his requirement is one that we put our complete trust in Christ, as our savior. Mankind was created for the purpose of a relationship with God, but sin has broken that relationship. Sin suppresses the truth about our need for God, and as a result we look for other things to fill the void. But, only through faith in Christ can the void within us be filled, and the forgiveness of God be received.

**Colossians 1: 12 – 14,....**giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son, in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin....

Mankind seeks for answers to life in many different places, but as Christians we know and understand, that there is only one answer to live by, and that is through the saving grace of Christ, who is the only savior that can rescue us from the eternal consequences of the fallen state of man, which we were born into.

**1 Peter 2: 9,....**but ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into the marvelous light....

Only through the forgiveness of the Father are we able to experience our special place in Gods eternal plan. This is because we have become a new creature once again in the family of God. We have been made heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. We have been given the indwelling Holy Spirit as a guarantee that our inheritance in heaven is secure. We been selected, called, chosen, consecrated, and set apart for Gods particular purpose.

In our life in Christ, we have been justified through the redeeming blood of Christ from our sinful choices in the world, so that we might proclaim unto the world, through the word, our thoughts, our actions, and our motives, proclaim the excellence of the one who saved us out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

**Luke 15: 11 – 16,....**a certain man had two sons....and the younger....said....Father give me the portion of my goods that falleth me....the younger son gathered all together and took his journey....and....wasted his substance....when he had spent all....he began to be in want....and joined himself to a citizen of that country....and no man gave unto him....

Like other parables written for us within the word of God, this parable shows unto us the life of man in comparison to the choices in which we make to the choices that God would have us to make, concerning our willingness to either follow after our fleshly worldly desires, or to follow after his desire for us, which is to accept, and follow after his purpose and plan for our life, through the saving grace of his Son. We also see from today's scripture that when living within the choices of our fleshly desires, it does not take long to become fully committed unto those sinful desires, and with this our wants then become greater than our ability to supply them. Therefore, will a man join himself unto the world, for now his willingness has conformed him to the world, and serving his worldly desires hath caused him to reject everything else and become consumed by his own lusts.

**Romans 6: 12 – 13,....**let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof....neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God....

Everyone is born into sin, and at that age when we gain the ability to choose between that which is good and that which is evil, if we do not choose to be saved by grace through faith, then we remain separated from God. Those who have been saved by grace, through faith in Christ, have returned into fellowship with God, and the instruction to do so, is based upon the faithful, unchangeable, word of God. Therefore, we are to hold onto these promises, and the facts given unto us through his word. Let us then dwell upon the truth of our forgiveness, which comes through Christ Jesus, who paid in full the debt for our sin, and we are no longer under the condemnation of that sin.

**Luke 5: 17 – 24,....**when he came to himself....he said....I will arise and go to my Father, and ....say....Father I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy....he arose, and came to the Father....and his Father saw him, and had compassion, and ran....and kissed him....the son said....Father, I have sinned....and am no more worthy to be called thy son....the Father said....bring forth....the best robe....a ring....shoes....and....the fatted calf....let us eat, and be merry....for this my son was dead, and is alive....was lost, and is found....

Through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, which comes unto us in many forms, which may be from the teaching and preaching of God's word, or witnessing from other believers in Christ, or the actions of those who love the Lord God, as well as loving thy neighbor as thyself, and of course through nature itself, all of these things help us to realize that what we are running from, which is Christ, is far greater than what we are running to in the world. As we begin to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit around us, and we begin to see the glory of God in our many different surroundings, it is then that we begin to see the need to change, and we begin to understand that we do not have to remain living in the sinfulness of the world, for now we know that if we will, by faith, believe in Christ, that the Father, who has been watching and waiting for our return, he will have compassion on those he loves so dearly, and will be there to meet us. In doing so, we will be made a full member in the family of God, in the unity of the body of Christ, the church. And yet not just a member of his family, but we will be blessed with all spiritual blessings and gifts in heavenly places in Christ. For God will never turn away anyone, that by faith believing in his Son, he will come unto them.

**Ephesians 1: 3, 7 – 9, 11 – 12,....**blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings and gifts in heavenly places in Christ....in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins....having made known unto us the mystery of his will....in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will....that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ....

Often time, we rationalize the sinfulness in our life, so that we do not have to see it as that which is creating a barrier between ourselves and God. It is for this reason that we build up a wall in our heart, a wall that we are unable on our own to break down. But, when we turn to God, who is willing and able to forgive our disobedience, he will reconcile ourselves unto himself, so that our return to him will be a joyous, eternal celebration.

**Romans 5: 10 – 11**,....for if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God....being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life....we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by where we have now received the atonement....

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.

*Tim Hughes*

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowowlfarm.com/>

