

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.6.2023

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.

Forgiving One Another

Matthew 18: 21 – 35

As believers, Gods standards have become our standards, but how do we know what Gods standards are, we know by reading and studying the word of God. Therefore, the next question we would ask ourselves is how are we to live according to those standards which we have acquired from God, this would come through obedience to Gods word, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Although Gods standards are made clear unto us through his word, following the flesh, and following the desires thereof make our efforts to follow his standards very difficult. In our own efforts, Gods standards are impossible to follow, because when we are living in our own efforts we are not living by our faith in God. Having the desire to live according to Gods standards requires great faith. Our goal, our willingness, our desire as Christians is to glorify God, daily. This can only happen when we live according to his standards, which are set forth in his words. Making the commitment to live a life in Christ is truly a commitment to follow after the promises of God. In today's scripture, we will learn to follow after Gods standard of forgiveness. As Christians, the fruits of the spirit that dwells within us by the Holy Spirit is: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, and all come to us from the forgiveness of God, and are to be given by us in forgiveness to others. Forgiveness is not something you earn as some might think, forgiveness has always been given, and must always continue to be given. God forgave us, we are to forgive others.

Ephesians 4: 32,....be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ sake hath forgiven you....

Everyone at some time seeks forgiveness from someone. Humanity desires forgiveness, and yet is incapable of receiving true forgiveness, unless by faith believing, mankind accepts it through the shed blood of Christ, for without Christ there is no forgiveness. Why is forgiveness so difficult? It is because mankind cannot forgive if they have never come to the understanding, in their life, of just how much they have been forgiven. This is due to:

Ephesians 4: 31,....bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour (which is being loud and obnoxious and confusing), and evil speaking....with malice (spitefully with hostility)....

We live in a world that encourages self-promotion, which produces self-righteousness, and from self-righteousness stems sinful attitudes, and behaviors. We should not think that kindness and forgiveness is optional, just because of the worldly emotions that we are feeling. It is not optional, it is instructed, therefore it is required of God.

Matthew 18: 21 – 27,....then came Peter....and said....how oft....shall....I forgive....till seven times....Jesus saith....until seventy times seven....the kingdom of heaven is likened unto....a....king, which would take account of his servants....one was brought which owed him....commanded....payment to be made....servant....fell down....saying have patience with me, and I will pay the all....the Lord of that servant was moved with compassion....and gave him the debt....

AS believers, forgiveness is given endlessly unto us, and therefore should be an endless gift that we give unto others. Because God has forgiven us, we are to forgive each other. As Christians, we understand that our sin debt was paid in full by Christ, which is the basis for God's forgiveness. We cannot repay our debt to God, nor can we earn our salvation, because it is a free gift. Therefore, forgiveness should be in like proportion to the amount that we are forgiven. As servants of God, by faith believing in Christ Jesus, our sins have been forgiven, our sin debt paid, therefore, when we are offended by others, we should be willing to forgive with a heart of gratitude, because of the grace which we ourselves have been given.

Matthew 6: 14 – 15,....for if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will then forgive you....but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses....

As believers, our eternal destiny is not based upon our forgiving others. However, like all that God commands us to do, in everything that we are disobedient, it damages our relationship with God. When Christ taught his disciples the fundamentals of prayer, he taught them saying:

Matthew 6: 12,....and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors....

As Christians, asking God for forgiveness when we sin comes through the instruction given unto us in his word.

Mark 11: 25,....whenever you stand praying forgive....

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....

Asking God for forgiveness of sin and asking him to restore us in our relationship with him while withholding forgiveness from someone else, would make us? Yes, a hypocrite! We cannot possibly walk in true fellowship with God if we refuse forgiveness to others. Any sin committed against us is insignificant in comparison to our sinfulness against God. God forgives us for so much, and we forgive others so little.

Colossians 3: 13,....forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye....

We are to forgive one another generously, patiently enduring the faults of others in a kind, generous, godly manner. Forgiveness is putting up with the changing attitudes of our brothers and sisters in Christ, with a spirit of gentleness, grace, and understanding, with patient endurance. But the greatest of our incentives toward forgiving others is based upon the gospel of truth, and that is that God forgave us, and it was a free gift, and it was eternal.

Matthew 18: 28 – 35,....but that same servant....found one....which owed him....he laid hands on him....saying....pay me that thou owest....his fellow servant....besought him....have patience with me, and I will pay thee....he would not....and cast him into prison....then his Lord....called him....thou wicked servant, I forgave thee....shouldest not thou also have had compassion....his Lord....delivered him....till he should pay all that was due....like wise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses....

If forgiveness is not heartfelt, or sincere, then is it really forgiveness? not at all, and an unforgiving spirit is not pleasing unto God. Our actions reveal the truthfulness of our relationship with God, and a self-righteous person only sees Gods mercy for himself. If we are unwilling to give mercy unto others, then we do not have a genuine understanding of our relationship with God.

Proverbs 17: 9,....he that covereth a transgression seeketh love, but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends....

Gods love will prosper when we learn to forgive the faults of others, but if we dwell on the faults of others and do not forgive, then we will allow those faults to separate what once was a probable close relationship, a relationship that was founded upon the grace of God.

The primary goal of godly love and unity in Christ is to encourage one another in the body of Christ to grow closer in their relationship with God.

Galatians 6: 1 – 2,....if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest also ye be tempted....bear ye one another burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ....

Let us Pray.

Tim Hughes

304.376.3342 – Text or talk.

Tim.hughes1962@gmail.com

<https://hollowolfarm.com/>

