

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

8.20.2023

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.

Gods Gracious Rewards

Matthew 20: 1 – 16

Every opportunity that God gives unto the believer to serve him, we should see as an honor and a privilege, and as long as we do not look upon this service as something that is based upon our outward works, but on the inward working of the Holy Spirit, then our faithful service will be rewarded by the Lord. In our life in Christ, our service unto the Lord is filled with many opportunities, and it is not a person's abilities that matters as much as how we use those God given abilities. God will never ask us to do something that he has not given unto us the ability to accomplish, but he does, through his word, command us to use the abilities that he has given unto us, to use them to the fullest of our potential in him. We may not be equal to other believers in our God given talents, but we should be equal in our faithful efforts. God can do a lot with a little, so we must do the most we can with that which he has given unto us, so that we may glorify him. If we will be willing to do what God has called us to do, by faith, with nothing wavering, then no matter what the circumstance, God will reward all equally.

Ephesians 5: 15,....see then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise....

God does not want us to be self-centered in our service to him. He has assigned tasks for all of us to do in our lives, and the timing of these tasks are according to his time and purpose. Each task is an opportunity, so that we may encourage those who are in service with us, without envy or jealousy, because their standing with the Lord is the same as ours. We should never feel in any way that our life in Christ is somehow greater, or worthy of more rewards than that of those serving with us. God gives to each one opportunity, and with these opportunities, he gives gifts, and the strengths to achieve with these gifts his purpose and plan. We must not envy others, for when we are envious of others we minimize our spiritual strengths, which shows forth our weaknesses in the knowledge and understanding of God. We must ask God not only to use our own spiritual strengths to the fullness of his glory, but also to use the gifts and strengths of others as well.

Matthew 20: 1 – 7,....the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man....which went out early....to hire labourers....when he had agreed....for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard....he went out....saw others standing idle....and said....go ye also....and whatever is right I will give you....again he went out....and did likewise....the eleventh hour he went out and found others....he saith unto them....go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive....

God needs labourers, labourers who have a willing desire to serve, without arrogance, without pridefulness, without complaining, but with humbleness, with compassion, with faithfulness, and with love.

In this passage of scripture, we come to understand, that while living our life here upon this earth, it is never too late to begin living faithfully, for God will give great rewards to those who come to him in faith believing, and time has no significant relevance.

As workers for Christ, we must realize that even though we feel that we have sacrificed and laboured a lot for the kingdom of God, it still comes down to this most important thing, and that is the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Therefore, those things that we think comes first, in reality, they will be last in the eyes of God. God through his grace gives unto us his works to do, works that are spiritually sound and eternally meaningful, and then he blesses us with more than we deserve in our service unto him. We should humble ourselves so that we may be seen as workers who were picked at the end of the day, otherwise we may find that pridefulness will bring about the worldly emotions of pettiness, jealousy, and self-righteousness, and the feeling that we are owed more of Gods blessings than he feels that we deserve.

Psalm 37: 3 – 7,....trust in the Lord, and do good....delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart....commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him....rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him, fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in the way....

Even though this passage of scripture speaks more of the comparison between the believer and the non-believer, it teaches us to trust in the Lord, and to hold fast to our faith, and our hope in Christ. We should focus on the things of God, those qualities that have everlasting joy, eternal purpose, and eternal value, instead of allowing ourselves to become overwhelmed in comparing ourselves to those who seem to prosper more, while working less. Placing ourselves in Gods presence, trusting in his word of truth, abiding in his love, and being content in his timing, will help us to patiently wait, without murmuring and complaining, concerning the work that he has for all to do.

Matthew 20: 8 – 16,....when even was come, the Lord....saith....call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last to the first....they received every man a penny....when the first came....they likewise received every man a penny....when they received it, they murmured....saying, these last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal to us....he answered....friend, I do thee no wrong, didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that is thine, and go thy way, I will give unto the last, even as unto thee....so the last shall be first, and the first last, for many are called, but few chosen....

As believers, we will be blessed according to the goodness of God, not according to what we think that we are worth. We often time look at things according to worldly terms, but God gives according to his grace. This means that we are rewarded for our faithful service to God, but we must not think of our rewards in terms of worldly material wealth, but in terms of blessings of spiritual wealth, blessings that have eternal value. As we live our life by faith in God, then God gives unto us according to whatsoever is right and pleasing in his eyes.

Isaiah 55: 8 – 9,....for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord....for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts then your thoughts....

We are made in the image and the likeness of God, and we must not forget that he is the eternal God and creator of all things, whose works are beyond our limited comprehension. It is very important to remember who God is, and who we are, and to understand that God is perfect in his purpose and plans, and all that he does. Even though our plans may fail, and our expectations may bring unto us frustrations, God has a higher purpose to which he is working for us, and we are all a part of his eternal plan.

Romans 8: 27 – 28,....and he that searcheth the heart knoweth what is the mind of the spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God....and we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose....

At the heart of Gods goodness is his grace, and what we receive from God is not related to the extent or quality of our labours, but instead, it is because of the simple free grace, that comes by Christ and his work on the cross. The life of a Christian is one of waiting, and longing to be with God, while enduring that which we see as suffering in this life. For this reason, God gives unto us his spirit, to help us in our weaknesses, so that our communication with him remains unbroken. Therefore, let us truly grasp in our life in Christ, Gods gracious rewards, and blessings, and in doing so, there will be less place in our lives for envy and jealousy.

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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