

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

11.26.2023

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.

Embracing The Void in Our Life

John 4: 7 – 15

Even though, as Christians, we know what it means to have a right relationship with God, often time, we still feel an emptiness, or a loneliness in our life that we just do not know how to cope with, and rather than putting our complete trust in the Lord, we are waiting on some kind of miracle to fill the void. So, what is this emptiness that we are feeling that brings about despair, depression, anxiety, and loneliness, we can come up with many different reasons why we are feeling this emotional emptiness in our life, but the truth is, it is a complete absence of the joy, faith, hope, and love in our life that can only come from putting our faith and trust in God. As Christians, we should look inward to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, but we spend most of our time looking outwardly. We listen to what the world tells us about who we should be, and we ignore who we really are in Christ. We try to fix our inner discomforts by using our external worldly desires, which only creates a distraction that covers up the pain and suffering for a short period of time. The good news is that there is someone who understands our hearts completely, and he knows our thoughts, and every emotional feeling that we have, and he longs for us to realize that he is with us no matter what the circumstances are in our life. So, just how are Gods people supposed to live in Gods world without having this void in our life.

Psalm 63: 1,....O God, thou art my God, early will I seek thee, my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is, to see the power and the glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary....

Many times, life's journeys are going to take us through what the word of God calls wilderness places, and this is where we must realize that only God can provide the comfort that we desperately desire and need. Sadly, we do not always look to God for that comfort, but we look to the world, which supplies us with a quick temporary fix which eventually leaves us with a feeling of emptiness and loneliness that we do not know how to cope with. To overcome this, we must quickly return and seek God with our whole heart, for he is the Lord, and there is no other. We are the people of God, and he is the God of our salvation, therefore, we must learn to allow him to show unto us the empty places in our heart, and the ways that we should allow him to fill these voids.

John 4: 7 – 15,....there cometh a woman....to draw water, Jesus saith....give me a drink....saith the woman....how is it....being a Jew, asketh drink of me....Jesus answered....if thou knewest the gift of God....thou wouldest have asked....he would have given thee living water....the woman saith....thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep, from whence hath thou that living water? Jesus answered....whosoever draweth of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst....

Like the woman at the well, we have all depended upon other means at times when having our needs met. Often time, we continue to return to the same place, time after time, because we have come to depend upon the same source over and over, and even though it is never enough, and we have always depended upon other areas to get our needs met, when we look to the world instead of God, it will never be enough, because it will never be what God wants for us in our life. On the other hand, what God has to offer will always fill the emptiness and the loneliness in our life, because what God has to offer has spiritual depth, not just shallow promises. Often time, we have the same doubt in our heart that the Samaritan woman had, because we question God. We ask the same questions, where do you get this living water to give, for you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. We do not always realize that Christ wants to satisfy the emptiness in our heart to the very depths, no matter how deep. This is an emptiness that God created in the first place, to lead us to him, and that which he draws us with is the indwelling Holy Spirit, and the only one that can stop Christ from reaching the depth of the emptiness of our heart is ourselves. The empty places in our hearts were created to be filled by God, for he is the only source that can satisfy our soul.

2 Corinthians 5: 14 – 15,....for the love of Christ constraineth us....that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again....

One mistake that we make, as we talk to Christ in prayer, is that we ask God to remove the void in our life. God will not remove the void, but he will fill the void, if we so desire. He will fill it with a purpose, and that purpose is such that we can live our lives to the glory of God, who gave his only begotten Son to die, to pay our sin debt, so that we might acquire the hope of eternal life with him. Eternal life refers to the quality of life that we will live in forever, it is not just enduring or existing forever.

Romans 6: 17 – 18,....but God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine that was delivered unto you....being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness....

Sound doctrine only comes from the written word of God. This means that the word of God must remain the foundation for godly living, and spiritual maturity in our life. The purpose of the word of God is to produce Christlike behaviors, which will help us to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto God, all the while growing in faith, and becoming a worthy witness to Gods saving grace, to a lost and dying world. This is because, that at the moment in a person's life that we became a Christian, by faith believing in Christ, sin lost its power over us, and we became obedient to Gods word, and therefore we no longer live our lives as slaves to sin.

Psalms 42: 2,....my soul thirsteth for God, for the living God....

There is a hunger instilled within the hearts of all mankind. The problem is, instead of turning to God, and letting him fill the void in our souls, we turn to the things of the world, hoping that this will lead us to the truth of our loneliness. For a time, it seems like we have found what we are looking for, but in the end, we are just as empty as we ever were. Only God can satisfy our emptiness, and he will do so as we turn to him, in faith. God does not want us to wander through life, wondering who we are, or why we are here.

Ecclesiastes 3: 11,....he hath made everything beautiful in his time, also he hath set eternity in their heart....

Ultimately, within every human heart is an awareness that there is something more than what this world has to offer. As Christians, due to allowing sin to hinder our relationship with God, we desperately find ourselves running after worldly things to fill the void that is reserved in our hearts exclusively for the Lord. Life on this earth will always be filled with things that come and go, and even though some things that we cherish are of a significant importance, there is none that will truly satisfy us. However, through all the ups and downs of life, as believers, we do have a promise of stability in our life, for God has set eternity in hearts.

James 4: 14 – 15,....whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, for what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little while, and then vanisheth away....for that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that....

God reigns outside of time and space, while we are bound on this earth by his law. God knows the end from the beginning, and this is why that he does not reveal our individual futures unto us, for we would not be able to bear the responsibility of knowing all that lies ahead in store for us. As Gods children, we should be very careful to live our lives according to his will, on a daily basis, so that we can be sure that we are embracing the void in our life, by trusting, and putting our complete faith in him, rather than making decisions that exclude the Lord from our life. Let us remember that we either grow in God's grace and mature in our faith in him, or we regress into an emotional state of emptiness and loneliness, living a life of despair in self-pity, the choice belongs to each of us.

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://hollowolfarm.com/>

