

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

3.17.2024

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.

The Raising of Lazarus

John 11: 38 – 44

Today's church is a reflection of the circumstances concerning those who were present at the time of the resurrection of Lazarus. Although many that were there were believers, they were living below the glory of God. Often time, as Christians, we will follow after the signs, wonders, and miracles of God without ever having a genuine relationship with him. This means that, even though, we want to see the outcome of the glory of God, we do not want to genuinely accept the opportunities that are given unto us so that we may experience his presence in our life, so that it may transform our faith. The glory of God is not just a feeling, but it is a spiritual event, which consists of everything that is contained in the character of God, a demonstration of his power. A power, which has the ability to resurrect, to deliver, to overcome, and to transform lives. It is the greatest power in existence, and it can only come through a sovereign God. Therefore, as believers, we are to strive to maintain the holiness of God, so that our lives at all times might reflect Gods glory.

Psalm 62: 7,....In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God....

Our salvation is anchored in God alone, we cannot earn our way into heaven by adding up our good deeds, nor will we get there by trying to simply avoid bad deeds. Obtaining an eternal life with God happens only when a person humbly submits, by faith believing, to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and not unto their own efforts, for It is God alone who makes all things possible, and it is God alone who should be glorified.

Matthew 19: 26,....Jesus....said....with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible....

John 11: 38 – 40,....Jesus....groaning in himself cometh to the grave....Jesus said, take away the stone....Martha....said....Lord, by this time he stinketh....Jesus saith....said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God....

Often time, in our life, Christ purposely delays his response in answer to our request, but this does not mean that he does not care for his people in their time of greatest need. God wants to take us to a greater place of faith so that we may glorify in him, over and above what we are anticipating.

John 11: 3 – 4,....Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick...when Jesus herd that, he said, this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby....

We understand that physical death is inevitable, and eventually comes to all, therefore, even as believers, it is not uncommon to become distressed when a loved one passes away. Now, for many, this stressful state of mind begins when we see someone's health begin to deteriorate. For this reason, our request to God for healing becomes a matter of urgency. However, God does not always immediately answer our request in a manner that we see fit, but, if we are listening unto him, he will grant unto us, compassion and comfort, so that we might have the ability to see the glory of God by our faith.

John 11: 40,....Jesus saith unto her, said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?....

From the beginning, God has arranged various details in our life, these details are to be set up as to be brought forth according to his timing, and for his purpose, and to glorify him. In our life, accepting God, means that we are following after his plan and his purpose for our life, and therefore through the guidance of his spirit, he continually works within us to prepare us for the various, arranged details that are going to take place within our life. Not always, do we follow the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit which dwells within us, so not always, are we prepared to face the situations and circumstances that are set before us. For this reason, our worldly emotions take over our life and control our state of being, and we miss out on experiencing the glory that God has set before us.

John 11: 41 – 42,....then they took away the stone....Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me....and I know that thou hearest me always, but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me....

Our will should be so in tune with the will of God, that we should know what God would have for us to do in any given situation, even before the situation or circumstance arises in our life. How can this be? Because, before situations in our lives arise, God is working, through his spirit, to prepare us, with the abilities that we need to face the circumstances that doth so easily beset us. Therefore, if we truly believe that God has already prepared us to be victorious in what lies ahead, then we must merely thank him, for he has already heard our petition.

The purpose for everything that God does, he does to benefit us. This means that the work which he is doing will soften the hearts of some so as to lead them to his Son Christ, all the while the same work may also hinder the hearts of others and bring them to reject the saving grace of Christ.

In the same manner as Christ, we are to follow in his footsteps, according to the example that he has given unto us through his own works.

1 Peter 2: 19 – 25,....this is thankworthy, if a man....endure grief, suffereth wrongly....for what glory is it, if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God....Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps....who did no sin....when he was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered, he threatened not, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously....who....bare our sins....on the tree, that we....should live unto righteousness....

Christ not only died for us, but he died as if it were us, so that we would never have to be punished for our sins....This was so that the eternal separation, which we all deserve, would be removed out of the way, that we might be eternally united with the Father, by becoming clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

John 11: 43 – 44,....and when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth....he that was dead, came forth, bound....Jesus saith....loose him, and let him go....

The power of Gods word, from the beginning of time, has brought forth life, and will continue to restore life through this age and into the ages to come. The duration of time makes no difference to God, for his divine power overcomes all things. God does more than give life, he is life, and because he is life, we can have eternal life. Humanity must choose either to accept or ignore the life that God has offered unto mankind through his Son, Christ.

John 11: 25 – 26,....Jesus said....I am the resurrection, and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live....whosoever liveth and belongeth in me shall never die, believeth thou this?

If we believe, will we see the glory of God? The glory of God, which is manifested within each of those who believe and show forth the attributes of God, never passes away, for it is eternal. In this mortal body we cannot look upon the glory of God, so God reveals his glory unto us through his Son, Christ Jesus, therefore, as believers we have seen his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Therefore, as believers, we should never live below the glory of God in our lives by exchanging it for the imperfections and corruptness of the world. So therefore, let us always live a life that glorifies God.

Let us Pray.

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