

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.28.2024

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.

A Sinner Serves Christ

## **Luke 7: 36 – 50**

A Christians, do we truly understand the value of the forgiveness of God. God did not have to forgive us, but he chose to do so without cost to us. God's forgiveness comes through his mercy and his grace, by the way of his Son, Christ Jesus, who gave his own life as a ransom and a sacrifice for our sins. Forgiveness has always been Gods plan for mankind; therefore, his forgiveness is a free gift. God knows the depths of our hearts, he knows our intentions, and our desires, and even so he does not force us to acknowledge or confess our sins, but he allows us to make the choice of whether we are going to accept his free gift of forgiveness. For those who have chosen to accept Gods forgiveness, we have the eternal hope of knowing that it can never be taken away from us, and in this, we find the freedom to confess our sins daily, while remembering the eternal hope that God has in store for us. When we truly begin to understand the forgiveness of God, which comes by the selfless sacrifice of Christ, it is then that we begin to see the change that God has begun within us.

**Romans 5: 8 – 11,....**but God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us....much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him....we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son....we shall be saved by his life....we....joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement....

Justification is a declaration of our righteousness in Christ and brings us peace with God.

**Philippians 4: 7,....**the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus....

So, what does this mean? It means that Christ died in our place. Now, because of sin, we deserved to suffer, but Christ took that judgement upon himself when he died upon the cross. Therefore, he suffered and died in our place so that God the Father, through Christ, might complete the work of our salvation while we were still yet in a state of rebellion against him.

**Romans 5: 8,....**while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us....

No other love has been more costly to the one doing the giving, and yet no less deserving to the one doing the receiving. God gave everything to save those who deserved nothing. God does not love us on the basis of what we do or how we do it, and he does not just love us so long as we love him, but Gods love toward us is unconditional.

**Luke 7: 36 – 39,....**one of the Pharisees desired....that he would eat with him....he went....and sat down to meat....a woman....which was a sinner....brought an alabaster box of ointment....stood....behind him weeping....began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with ointment....the Pharisees....saying....if he were a prophet, he would have known....she is a sinner....

As believers, do we show partiality among those whom God allows us to fellowship with. We cannot claim to be followers of Christ and be partial ( bias with favoritism ) towards others. Our partiality usually begins with that which we feel others have to offer unto us, or what we feel that that we have to offer unto others. These characteristics also reflect how we live our life in Christ, and our spiritual partiality is one that lies between a heart that is focused upon Christ and a heart that is focused upon ourselves. Every day of our life, as a believer, we are, in some form or manner, making an offer for our life unto God. If we are focused upon Christ, then our relationship with him, at all times, is one that is wholly and completely committed unto him, and if so then we do not have to be concerned for our life for our offering is one that is characterized by the mercy and grace of God. On the other hand, if we are only focused upon ourselves, and we are constantly making a comparison between ourselves and the world around us, so that we might be able to identify ourselves as the greater of them all, then our characteristics are not those of the mercy and grace of God. Therefore, we must always be found:

**1 Corinthians 15: 58,....**therefore....be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord....

As believers, we are encouraged to remain committed unto the Lord, which means that we are faithfully devoted, unmoving, standing firmly in Gods mercy, grace, compassion, and love. In doing so, we will widen our perspective of how we live our life and move forward from living in a temporary status to living in an eternal state. We do so when we depend upon the indwelling Holy Spirit for our strength, when we regularly feed upon the promises of his word, and when we maintain a sincere fellowship with God through prayer.

**Luke 7: 40 – 50,....**Jesus....said....a certain creditor....had two debtors....they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave both....which....will he love the most....he....whom he forgave most....seest then this woman....she....washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head....this woman....hath not ceased to kiss my feet....this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment....her sins....are many....are forgiven, for she loved much....he said to the woman, thy faith hat saved thee, go in peace....

God knows the status of the heart of every man, and by his grace he is willing to forgive all sins beyond our expectations. The evidence of God's forgiveness in our life is the characteristics of his mercy, grace, love, and compassion, that we display unto others. Christ does not compare the amount of sinfulness in our life to that in the lives of others. Christ looks upon the experience of forgiveness that each one displays. This in turn is the love that we show, because we know that we have been forgiven, for it has nothing to do with anything that we think that we have done to earn our forgiveness. The greater we experience the joy of our forgiveness, the greater the love that we will show to the one who has forgiven us. Our focus is to be upon God and not upon ourselves. When our heart is in a right relationship with God, he will be glorified, for we are doing that which is right and pleasing in his sight.

**1 John 3: 18 – 24,.....**let us not love in word....but in deed and in truth....and he shall assure our hearts before him....God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things....then have we confidence toward God....we receive of him, because we keep his commandment, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight....this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment....he that keepeth his commandment dwelleth in him, and he in him....hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the spirit which he hath given us....

Through obedience to his word, we abide in our fellowship with God. How important is it that we gain understanding in the truth of God's word, the importance is so that none of us diminishes from declaring the whole purpose of the commandments and promises of God. Only by believing in Christ are we placed within his righteousness, and only as we abide in our union with him can we fulfill his instructions, that he reveals unto us through the leadership and guidance of his Holy Spirit. It is only by abiding in Christ, that we are able to remain focused upon him, and not on the world. The one who abides in Christ and not on oneself, is one who has truly begun to understand the forgiveness of God, without partiality.

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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