

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

7.21.2024

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 Deliverance of the Jews

Esther 8: 3 – 8, 9: 18 – 23

As believers, we must not only learn of the importance of trusting in God, but we must also have a willingness to be used in service unto him, for God can save many through the work of his obedient servants. Now, the world will teach us of the power of positive thinking, and seeking after what we want most in our life, which sounds good to most people, but the word of God teaches us to deny ourselves by trusting that Christ has a better outcome for our lives than we could ever produce for ourselves. When we offer ourselves in willing service unto God, it is then that we can rest assured that he will take care of us according to the promises of his word.

Luke 9: 23 – 24,....and he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me....for whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it....

So, what does it really mean for a believer to become a true servant of God? Now, all believers are considered servants, but not all servants give of themselves willingly to God's purpose and plan for their life. Our life is to be one that surrenders completely and wholly unto God, which means even through sufferings we are to sacrifice ourselves in our service unto him. When we give up our life for Christ, we are not losing it, we are just allowing Christ to save it. Now, the world does not understand this kind of living, for they have yet to trust in Christ by faith believing in him as their savior. As believers, we are now identified with Christ, by his spirit, through obedience to his word, but it takes much more than just hearing the word of God, we must also apply it to our lives.

James 1: 22,....but be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves....

So, here is what a life of trusting in the saving grace of Jesus Christ looks like. We not only accept the word of God in our thoughts and in our minds, but we agree to it in our hearts and in our soul, which means that we pledge our obedience to the commandments and promises of his word. If we truly believe, we will stop talking long enough to listen, and to understand what God is trying to say unto us through his spirit that is indwelling within us, by his word. There is a difference between a professed faith, and a faith that produces the good works of righteousness which God has prepared for those who have the willing desire to carry out his will. Every believer should be growing in grace, all the while maturing in faith, and walking in spirit and truth, which demonstrates unto others what the saving grace of Jesus Christ is all about.

Esther 8: 3 – 8,....Esther spoke yet again before the king....besought him....to put away Haman....and his device that he had devised against the Jews....let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman....which he wrote to destroy the Jews....for how can I endure to see evil....or how can I endure to see destruction....king Ahasuerus said....I have given Esther the house of Haman, and....they have hanged him upon the gallows....write....for the Jews....and seal it with the king's ring....for the writing which is written....may no man reverse....

Esther is portrayed as a type of Christ as being shown as one who was willing to sacrifice oneself for the well being of others. Her words reveal an inner turmoil and anguish at the thought of the destruction of her fellow servants, which is a reminder of the responsibilities that we have as believers for the well being of the body of Christ.

John 10: 11,....I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd giveth his life for his sheep....

Christ, who is our example, is not only the one who guards our life and guides us, but he also feeds us and protects us, for he is the one who has laid down his life, a sacrifice for all mankind, so that we might have life eternal.

Matthew 20: 28,....even as the Son of Man came not to minister unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many....

By his willing sacrifice, Christ made salvation possible for all who will come unto him by faith believing. As believers, our genuine service to Christ is carried out for the benefit of others, and not for our own self-promotion. A true servant of Christ is not accepted for what he will receive, but for what God can do through him, for others. Godly service is not designed to serve our own emotional satisfaction, but it is to be a spiritual enlightenment unto those around us. Our life must become a living sacrifice that is holy and acceptable unto God.

Esther 9: 18 – 23,....the Jews....at Shushan assembled together....and on the fifteenth day....they rested....therefore the Jews of the villages....made....a day of gladness....and a good day....of sending portions one to another....to stablish this among them....that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor....the Jews undertook to do as they had begun....

As believers, it is our duty to finish the tasks that God has given unto us to do, those things which we have set out to accomplish, but to do this we must learn to follow after the instructions of the indwelling Holy Spirit. God will provide deliverance unto us as we go through the consequences of situations and circumstances in our life, but first we need to consider why that we are in the position that we are in, which is for his purpose and his plan, so that we might learn to draw our courage from him.

2 Corinthians 8: 6 – 12,....we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also....therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in grace also....I speak....by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love....for ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich....now therefore perform the doing of it, that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have....for if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not....

God does not force us to do anything, but through his word he encourages us to give of ourselves as an act of his grace and his love, to give of ourselves so that we might through him meet the needs of those who he has placed in our lives. Now, we must understand that there is a difference between wanting something to happen and having the willingness to allow God to work through us to make something happen. We might have a desire to serve, and we may even have a sincere readiness to serve, but it is meaningless if we do not take the steps needed to make good on our promises. Remembering, which in doing the work of the Lord, we might have made these promises to other individuals, but they are promises made to God, for they were made in the name of the Lord.

Now, our giving of ourselves should be according to the abundance of the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding that God has blessed us with. Therefore, it is the quality of our service that God has prepared us for that is important, and not the quantity of what we feel that we are capable of doing.

Philippians 1: 6,....being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ....

As believers, we are saved from the penalty of sin and death at the moment that by faith, we believed and confessed the Lord Jesus Christ, but the process of becoming Christlike is exactly that, it is a process. Our service unto God begins with salvation and goes throughout eternity. While here upon this earth there will be many parts to our Godly service that will be challenging, and with these challenges will come sufferings and persecutions, and at times it may seem like it is life threatening, but rest assured God is in control, and he wants nothing more than for us to acknowledge that every situation and circumstance is an opportunity to grow in our faith, and spiritually mature, so that we might be able to show Gods love to others which will glorify him.

Matthew 5: 16,....let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven....

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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