

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

11.24.2024

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.

Jesus Points to Jonah

Matthew 12: 22 – 32, 38 – 40

Matthew 12: 30,....he that is not with me is against me....

How does God expect us to respond when he challenges us to commit completely and wholly unto him. Why is it so important for God to have our complete faith, trust, and commitment in him. Sadly, many believers continually live their lives keeping what they believe to be a safe distance from God, while still proclaiming their belief in him. In order, to commit unto God, we must allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to work within us, revealing those areas in our life that are a hinderance to our relationship with him. Committing to pursuing a deeper relationship with God requires effort on our part. We honor our commitment unto God by dedicating our time to fervently seeking his righteousness. Every believer has a unique calling from God, but we will struggle to fulfill that purpose without a committed relationship unto him. Our commitment allows God to develop us into the person that he has designed for us to be.

Psalms 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....

Our commitment to God is not just a one-time decision, but it is ongoing. Let us remember that God is unwavering, and he desires nothing less than our complete faith and trust in him.

As believers, we must learn to turn to God as our first response, and not as our last resort. The choices which we make in life will often time take us where only God can provide the comfort and spiritual sustenance that we so desperately need, for God is our present help in time of need.

Psalm 46: 1,....God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble....

When, as believers, we feel trapped in the circumstances of our life, the best course of action for us is to trust that God is handling the situation. We know that he can do it, for he has done it before, so why not trust that he can do it again. In the hardships of our life, God will assure us that we can find safety and rest in him. Now, God will protect us, but it is much more than that, for in protecting us, he gives unto us purpose, so that our actions will glorify him. Our ultimate goal, in all things, is to glorify God, this is the purpose of our life.

Matthew 12: 22 – 30,....brought unto him one possessed with a devil....all the people....said, is not this the Son of David....the Pharisees....said, this fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub....Jesus knew their thoughts, and said....every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or home divided against itself shall not stand....if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself....if I cast out devils by the spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you....he that is not with me is against me....

If Gods people do not work together than nothing can be accomplished. The body of Christ must be in unity with one another, avoiding situations and circumstances that create opportunities that are contrary to the sound doctrine of salvation. Believers are to be united in their understanding of the truth of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 133: 1,....how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity....

Believers should not only just enjoy a common bond in Christ, but we should also enjoy a common goal of providing a clear and simple example of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Now, this does not mean that all believers, in every church, are going to have the same spiritual taste and preferences, but it does mean that all believers should be of the same spiritual fundamentals when it comes to the matters of our faith believing in Christ.

Hebrews 12: 14,....follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord....

As believers, most of what we face is not as drastic as it could be, and it is not as drastic as we make it out to be, but God will still use these experiences to test us, and to bring us into a deeper and stronger faith in him. Unity among one another in the body of Christ is closely related to our spiritual maturity, therefore, we must allow the indwelling Holy Spirit to empower us, so that we might live Godly, righteous, mature lives in Christ. If we do not allow the Holy Spirit to empower us, sin is the result of rejecting the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Striving to live according to the leadership and guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit should be a natural desire in the life of every believer.

Matthew 12: 31 – 32, 38 – 40,....wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men....it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come....certain....saying, master, we would see a sign from thee....he answered....an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall be no sign given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas....for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whales belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth....

Blasphemy under grace, is when man makes the choice to reject Christ as the Son of God, rather than submitting completely to the will of God, allowing his rejection to become an eternal state of being. Now, before grace, the blasphemy that Christ was speaking of was when those who were accusing him, was giving credit unto Satan for the workings of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, they became committed to their disbelief, and because the entirety of their state of being was rejecting Christ as the Son of God, it became their eternal death. Rejecting the Son of God in person, by watching him perform wonders and miracles, and then giving Satan the credit for these miracles, they were blaspheming God. They were looking unto the worldly works of Satan for their salvation, which they were never going to find, for forgiveness of sins can only come by faith believing in Christ. For those who persist in their disbelief, they will not be forgiven, because, while they refuse to trust in Christ as the Holy Spirit leads them to do so, they will soon learn that there is no other pathway to forgiveness except through faith in Christ Jesus. The choice to consistently reject the Holy Spirit causes mankind to remain eternally separated from God.

Matthew 12: 39 – 40,....an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign....there shall be no sign given....

Mankind, even today, still seeks after signs, and claims that if God would give them a sign by providing certain and exact happenings, then they would believe, but this is nothing more than a deceptive excuse. God does not give signs on demand to prove himself, he only gives signs out of his own grace and his own timing. God has provided so much already, and not just through countless miracles and wonders, but through the death and resurrection of his Son Christ Jesus, which we have as a sign, recorded in his word. Mankind has more than enough proof of Christs identity.

Now Christ did not say that it was wrong to seek after a sign, as long as the purpose of a divine sign from him is used to lead humanity into a positive response to Gods message of faith. Unbelievers seek after a sign, but none will be given except for the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Believers, such as ourselves, by faith believing, may be given signs from God, all to confirm unto us his word, and to assure us of his presence, which is demonstrated by his power, so that we might become encouraged in our commitment to submit every aspect of our lives to his eternal purpose and plan, all to the glory of God the Father.

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://hollowowlfarm.com/>

