

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

11.17.2024

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.

Jonah is Angry with God

Jonah 4: 1 – 11

Understanding why we should be slow to anger is a most valuable lesson to learn in our life in Christ.

Proverbs 15: 18,....a wrathful man stirreth up strife, but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife....

Self-control, with the ability to consider our words and actions before they impact our life, is a valuable characteristic. Daily we interact with all kinds of people who have all kinds of personalities. This means that the chances are very good that we will find ourselves in challenging situations, which will be a test of how we carry ourselves and respond unto others. As believers, we should be an example in word and in deed. Living in our life in Christ in this manner will have a positive effect on the people and situations that we might find ourselves living in. This can only be achieved when we are walking closely with God, and we allow his characteristics to begin to develop within us.

Romans 2: 1 – 4,....that art inexcusable, O man, wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself....but we are sure that the judgement of God is according to truth....and thinkest thou this....that thou shalt escape the judgement of God....the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance....

God allows people to experience the consequences of their own actions, for he is not content to allow mankind to remain in their own self destruction. Therefore, his desire is to see all men come to repentance. Unlike mans anger, which is an expression of our worldly emotional feelings, Gods anger is an expression of his justice and his love for the world, for God is slow to anger, which means that he gives unto mankind many chances to change worldly attitudes and behaviors. Our God given ability to live in harmony is a priceless virtue.

Proverbs 14: 29,....he that is slow to wrath is of great understanding, but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly....

Those believers who mature in their faith, and in the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of God, learn to control their worldly emotions, and restrain their foolish, childish acts that come from a lack of spiritual maturity. As we begin to understand spiritual self-control, it is then that we will learn the meaning of practicing patience in our relationship with God. Every believer should be quick to listen, slow to anger, for mans anger does not produce the righteousness of Christ, which God desires. The worldly emotion of anger is motivated by selfish ambition, which creates division in the body of Christ. As believers, we should always be grateful for God's grace, his mercy, and his compassion, for without it there would be no salvation, for it is Gods patience, even in his anger, that delays the coming of Christ and keeps the door open for sinners to repent.

Jonah 4: 1 – 4,....it displeased Jonah....he was very angry....he prayed....I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of evil....therefore....O Lord....take, I beseech thee, my life from me, for it is better for me to die than live....then said the Lord, doest thou well to be angry....

Often time, like Jonah, we value our own reputation more than Gods, because we feel that our reputation is more important than having compassion for those who are dying in their sins. For this reason, there are times that we offer the outwardly appearance of Godly obedience, but inwardly we are harboring rebellion toward God. Our heart is divided for we speak the morality of Gods word, but we are full of hatred and contempt toward those whom we are speaking to. Therefore, God has to teach us just how misplaced our values are.

Matthew 15: 8,....this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me....

Going through the motions without having a sincere heart that is established in the truth of God's word shows the lack of our commitment unto God. To be a true believer, our heart must be right with God. We glorify God when we are obedient to his word, and not to man traditions or to our own self-righteous motivations, for in doing so we will suffer the consequences of our actions.

Jonah 4: 5 – 11,....God prepared a gourd....to deliver him (Jonah) from his grief....so Jonah was exceedingly glad....but God prepared a worm....it smote the gourd that it withered....God prepared a vehement wind, and the sun beat upon....Jonah....he fainted....and said, it is better for me to die than to live....then said the Lord, thou hast had pity on the gourd, for which thou hast not laboured....should not I spare Nineveh....that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand....

Often time, as believers, we feel that we are being treated unfairly and suffering unnecessarily. As believers, we are going to fail, and when we do fail, we should not give up on our faith, for in doing so we begin to blame God for our misfortunes, and we begin to ask ourselves the question, why is God allowing such things to happen unto us in our life. Sitting around and blaming God will only allow more troubles to arise in our life. Often time, because of our ignorance in knowing the word of God, as believers, we want to make sense of the trouble that we are going through by pointing our finger at God, when what we should be doing is fighting back against this ignorance by taking the time to allow God to speak unto us through his word by learning what it is that he is trying to teach us every day in our life. Missing out on even one day of learning through the teachings of Gods word will bring about a lack of understanding concerning the situations and circumstances in our life.

Psalms 1: 1 – 2,....blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly....but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night....

Our obedience to the word of God is a necessity for our life in Christ. The result of not being able to see the necessity of God's word in our life leaves us powerless as believers, for it leaves us unaware of the promises that God has made available unto us. Therefore, we cannot operate from the perspective of Gods eternal plan, which is to put the salvation of others above our own personal worldly needs and self-righteous attitudes.

Philippians 2: 4 – 5, 8, 10 – 11,....look not every man on his own things, but every man on the things of others....let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus....being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross....that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow....and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father....

All believers are to treat others with humility and selflessness, which means helping both believers and non-believers, for the perfecting of the saints, and to show those who do not yet know Christ, show them the pathway unto salvation. No longer are we to live according to our old self-serving nature, but we are to consider one another, loving one another by carrying in our body the death of Christ, so that the life of Christ might be revealed within us, so that others might see the saving grace of Jesus Christ through 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.

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