

Mt Lebanon Church

Sunday School Lesson

1.26.2025

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 Restores Peter To Service

John 21: 15 – 25

God's word calls for works to accompany our faith, for this will give meaning and purpose to our lives as believers. This means that we must take his word seriously, as we begin to willingly give our time, and spiritual God given abilities so that we might be a blessing to those around us. All believers have been given the opportunity to share the joy of our salvation, which comes when we demonstrate our faithfulness to serve God. Therefore, all believers are instructed to take part in the nurturing of his church, and instructing believers, as well as those who are lost, perfecting those within the body of Christ, and searching for the lost souls that are in the world. So, why does God instruct us in this manner, it is because he wants us to experience the trust that he has instore for us in becoming apart of the most important work that needs to be accomplished upon this earth.

1 Peter 5: 2 – 3,....feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind....being ensamples to the flock....

As believers, it is our responsibility to provide teachings, by example, to those within the body of Christ. Teachings that will create an awareness of each one's role within the purpose and plan of God. In doing so, we must understand, that as one who watches over, and tends to the needs of others, that the body of Christ belongs to God, and we are merely overseers, a part of a whole who tends to the needs of the church, for no one person owns the church, God does. Therefore, no one should take it upon themselves to fulfill the expectations of others, for a person that thrust himself into spiritual leadership cannot truly serve the way God has intended. Believers must be eager to serve for the sake of the service for which God has provided the opportunity, and we must not allow ourselves to be motivated by dishonest schemes and worldly manipulations. As believers, we are to live in obedience to Gods word, and this change did not happen through the temporary efforts of mankind, but by the commandments and promises of the truth of his word. This word we have received, and we now proclaim unto others.

John 21: 15 – 17,....so when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto them, yea Lord, thou knowest that I love thee....He saith unto him, feed my lambs....he saith to him again the second time, Simon....lovest thou me?....yea Lord thou knowest that I love thee....Jesus saith unto him, feed my sheep....he saith unto him the third time, Simon....lovest thou me? Peter was grieved....and he saith unto him, Lord thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee....Jesus saith unto him, feed my sheep....

As believers, do we truly love the Lord our God with all our heart, and do we follow with genuine obedience the instruction of his word? Also, as believers, do we have a problem following his commandments, just because we tend to get in our own way. Our worldly desires, our earthly lusts, and our emotional distractions keep us from looking unto God, therefore, we do not see the goodness and the greatness of God, because we are so preoccupied with the trivial distractions of the world. So, what can we do to better surrender our will to Gods will in our life? By Gods saving grace, we are the only picture of Christ that humanity sees, therefore, it is Gods command, which has now become our responsibility, to bring to light, the characteristics and the attributes of Gods mercy, his grace, and his righteousness, into a world that is full of sinful desires and godly rejection, and in order for this to be an effective part of our life in Christ, there must be godly love.

Now, you might say that even in Christ it is hard to love everyone, or you might ask the question, how can I love everyone? Christ told his disciples the two greatest commandments are these: love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love thy neighbor as thyself. Now, he did not say that these were the easiest commandments to obey, but he did say that they were the greatest.

1 Corinthians 13: 13,....now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love....

Once we begin to understand the love of God, then we must understand the importance of that love. Christ explained it himself when speaking with Peter, when he said, if ye love me, feed my sheep. Who are the sheep, who are we supposed to feed, and what are we supposed to feed them? To answer this question, Christ started with a question, lovest thou me more than these, then feed my lambs. He was speaking to Peter concerning the other disciples, and today those disciples represent the church, we are to feed others within the body of Christ, but it does not end there. The next two times Christ spoke and said feed my sheep, he was directing Peter first of all to the children of Israel, which is God's chosen people, and then to the gentile people. It is our responsibility to minister the word of God unto all mankind, but for what reason? The statement feed my lambs speaks of perfecting the saints, which is how the knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is spread throughout the world, and Christ wants to make sure that we are a living example of the truth of God's word. This requires spiritual maturity, which comes through our obedience to the word of God.

John 21: 18 – 22,.... I say unto thee, when thou wast young thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou goest, but when thou shalt be old....another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not....he saith unto him, follow me....Peter....seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved....and said....Lord....is he that betrayeth thee....what shall this man do? Jesus saith....if I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee....

We are saved by grace through faith, and with this comes the call on our life to see the need to obey Christ in faith. Our obligation to focus upon our personal obedience in God should keep us from probing into the innermost spiritual relationship between God and other believers within the body of Christ. Yes, it is good to care about the fate of others, not out of worldly, natural curiosity, but it must be out of our spiritual responsibility in our service unto God that we should seek to meet the needs of those whom God has directed us unto in our life. Therefore, we need to become obedient to God's command in our life, the command to follow thou me.

1 John 5: 2 – 4,....this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments....for this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not grievous....for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith....

One of the greatest examples of our life in God is our willing obedience to his word, and our readiness to trust in what he says, and to believe in the promises and commandments which he spoken unto us through the leadership and guidance of his Holy Spirit. In doing so, Christ command unto us is that we as believers will display the same depth of love to one another as he himself hath demonstrated unto us. As we walk in Gods love, and as we live a life filled with his love, it is then that we will find ourselves following the example of his Son, Christ, and by his faith will we gain the ability to allow his love to be manifested through us unto others.

John 21: 23 – 25,....Jesus said....he shall not die, but, I will that he tarry till I come....this is the disciple which testifieth of these things....and we know that his testimony is true....there are also many other things which Jesus did....I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written....

False information spreads quicker than anything else, and despite all the rumors and predictions of misinformation that arises so quickly around us, it does not change the work that we are needed to do for the Lord. The word of God demonstrates unto us how challenging the life of a believer can be, and the most challenging aspect of our life in Christ is learning how to continue on the pathway in which God has directed for us to go in our life. Therefore, when we stray from Gods pathway, then we must follow the direction of the Holy Spirit to get back on track. Even though the pathway that God has put us on may seem dangerous to us at times, we should stay on the path, for Christ is behind us, beside us, and ahead of us, and will remain with us through every situation and circumstance. Now, whatsoever may happen unto those around us, whether it be family, or friends, or acquaintances, we still must stay on the pathway that God has put us on, for in doing anything other than Gods will in our life will result in our inability to remain in the closeness of our relationship with him, and will also hinder our ability to help others in a way that is pleasing unto Christ, and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

So, let me ask this question, as believers do, we truly love God, and if the answer is yes, are we feeding his sheep. Loving God means feeding his sheep, and feeding the sheep means loving God. We may try to do one without the other, but if we do, we will never be effective in our life in Christ.

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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