

Mt. Lebanon Church

Teaching Ministry

7.6.2025

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. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

A Life of Surrender

Luke 14: 7 – 11, 15 – 24

Long before humanity thought of God, God thought of humanity, and made provisions for our salvation. There is no one that is too sinful to make it to heaven, because there is room for all, mankind only needs to accept Gods invitation, which comes by faith believing in Christ and what he has done for all humanity through the crucifixion and the resurrection. Now, everyone who God has brought into this world; he has invited to live eternally with him. Sadly, there are many who will not accept Gods invitation, and they will make flimsy excuses for why that they are refusing the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Even though man's excuses for not believing in Christ may not be considered sinful acts against God, disobedience to walking in God's word and rejecting the call of the Holy Spirit will result in eternal separation from God. So, why do people refuse Gods invitation, it is simply because they do not want it. Mankind would rather have worldly possessions and status of prestige here upon this earth instead of laying up eternal treasures, with the hope of a life with Christ.

Jeremiah 6: 16,....thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein....

In order for us to experience the life that God wants us to experience, we must follow his direction in our life. The word of God reveals the unwillingness of mankind to become obedient to his word, and humanity continues in that same direction today. God has a plan for all that will lead to eternal life, but we must follow his instruction, which means accepting his invitation. As believers, who have received Gods mercy and grace, and as believers we still continue to receive his grace abundantly, so why is it that we experience drifting away from his direction in our lives. It is because we do not stay in a close relationship with the Lord, and we do not continue to trust and obey his word. We desperately need divine direction. Without divine direction we will face divine judgement. We must actively respond to Gods divine invitation, so that we might see and walk in the goodness of his righteousness. So, we want to look at a couple examples of what it takes to live a life of surrender unto God.

Luke 14: 7 – 11,....he put forth a parable to those which were bidden....when thou art bidden....sit not....in the highest room....lest a more honorable man than thee be bidden....and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room....he may say unto thee, friend, go up higher, than shalt thou have worship....whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted....

Through the sinfulness of the world man's attitude is to promote oneself, for we want to be successful, and we want to achieve worldly recognition. But as believers, we learn, that it is God that must do the exalting as he sees fit, because when God honors us, we become a living testimony unto him.

Worldly pride will bring humiliation, but spiritual humility will bring godly honor, therefore, we must think of ourselves less, and we must think of others more, but we must think of God most of all. So, let me give you a couple passages of scripture that speak of worldly pride and the effects thereof.

Proverbs 11: 2,....when pride cometh, then cometh shame, but with the lowly is wisdom....

Proverbs 16: 18,....pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall....

Proverbs 29: 23,....a mans pride shall bring him low, but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit....

So, let's ask ourself this question, are we the person that chooses to exalt ourselves with our wants, needs, and feelings, or are we the one who will deny ourselves and follow after Gods will and purpose for our life.

Luke 9: 23,....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....

What does it really mean for a believer to become a true disciple of God. We are born again into the kingdom of God through faith believing in Christ Jesus who was crucified on the cross to pay our sin debt. Therefore, we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. So, to become a true disciple, we must take up our cross daily and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, by walking in the way of his cross.

Matthew 16: 25,....for whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it....

The world does not understand this kind of life, a life of surrendering, a life of suffering, a life of sacrifice, and a life of service unto the Lord. Humanity does not understand that when you give up your life unto the Lord, you will not lose it, but rather you are saving it.

Now back in:

Luke 14: 15 – 24,....blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God....made a great supper....sent his servant....to them that were bidden, come, for all things are now ready....they all began to make excuses....then the master of the house....said.....go out quickly....and bring in....the poor....maimed....halt....and the blind....it is done....and yet there is room....go out....compel them to come in, that my house may be filled....for I say unto you, that none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper....

Believers must never misinterpret being honored by the world as spiritual blessings, because in doing so we will so learn that our invitation only goes out to those who will honor us and it will not include those who we think to be of no spiritual value to our own self-righteous ways. When we allow ourselves to be swept away by our own pridefulness, we will see that it is then that our focus is upon earthly glory instead of glorifying God. Everything that we do should be an expression of our faith, so that we might show others the importance of becoming a part of the family of God. Even though many will make excuses because they consider other things to be more important than God, the real reason is that people are so involved in their everyday lives that they are just not interested in hearing what the truth of the word of God has to say. For this reason, God will take us beyond what we feel our limitations are, so that we may reach out to others, compelling others to come to the knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Many will reject Christ invitation, but there will be others that will accept his invitation with gladness.

Romans 3: 3, 9 – 10, 23,31,.....for what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?....what then? are we better then they? no, in no wise....all are under sin....there is none righteous, no, not one....for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God....do we then make void the law of faith? God forbid, yea, we establish the law....

God himself will honor those who do not seek honor from the world. Since God has chosen all believers to invite the sinner to salvation, we should make every effort to take the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ unto the world, and we should not be surprised, when we see the gospel of the word of God being met with excuses rather than joyful acceptance. Remember, it is only because of Gods mercy and grace, that his desire is that all of mankind will accept his invitation of salvation and come to the knowledge of the saving grace of his Son, Christ so that we might live a life of surrender unto God.

Let us Pray.

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