

Mt Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

10.12.2025

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 which he would have you to see through the study of God's word that we share.

God Sees Our Hearts

Acts 4: 32 – 37, 5: 1 - 11

Even as believers, can we be led into flagrant sin? Yes, and it is an excessive desire for worldly pleasure and for the praise of man that plays a great part in this downfall in our life in Christ. Now, God is concerned for the righteousness of the church. He sees the hearts and the minds of the believer and will repay each one according to our deeds. Now, Satan seeks to destroy the body of Christ, and even yet today, through worldly deceit, he can cause us to choose to try and test the spirit of the Lord. As believers, God wants us to see the seriousness of the spiritual battle that is going on within the body of Christ. Therefore, we are called to avoid self-righteousness and self-promotions, ensuring that our outward actions align with the inner workings of Christ in our life. We should be ever watchful to distinguish between the genuine work of God and those who are deceitful within the church, for God will often time take extreme measures to keep his church pure, and in unity, remaining true to the faith. So, what are some of the warnings that we see when learning from the consequences of flagrant sin within the body of Christ. We learn that sin is a serious matter to God, especially for those who have already received Gods grace. Lying to the Holy Spirit, by attempting to deceive God through the hidden motives of the heart, in order to receive worldly recognition can bring about swift and severe judgement from God. Remember, God will not tolerate deceitful actions within the body of Christ that is intended to proclaim Gods glory as man's gain.

Acts 4: 32 – 37,....the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul....neither said any of them....of the things which he possessed was his own....they had all things common....the apostles witness of the resurrection....and great grace was upon them....neither....any....lacked, for many possessions sold....and brought the prices....and laid them down at the apostles feet....distribution was made....according as....need....Barnabas....having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles feet....

The early church began with a spiritual and emotional unity, having a shared purpose and a godly affection for one another. This behavior was a demonstration of faith, reflecting a new life in Christ, which is evident of God's work, and his power, by way of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This indwelling power enables the believer to speak the word of God truthfully, encouraging and convincing all those who will listen to the message of the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Now, it is this grace that empowers the believer to live according to the hope of the resurrection of Christ Jesus, and to also show God's grace and mercy toward one another. Today, as believers, we should be practicing the same sense of sharing that the early church practiced. Both materialistic and spiritually, the church is to make sure that the basic necessities are met for everyone, even at the cost of personal sacrifice, which was a demonstration of unity, compassion, and faith in God.

Acts 20: 35,....remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, it is more blessed to give than to receive....

As believers, we are to live a life of active generosity and giving, which is in the likeness of the characteristics of God. This refers not only to those with physical needs, but also to those who are spiritually immature and in need of support and encouragement in the faith. This commandment from Christ is not just a promise given, but it is a pathway for the believer to experience a genuine life in Christ, knowing the greater joy and spiritual fulfillment of the Father's love.

Acts 5: 1 – 11,....Ananias and Sapphira....sold a possession and kept back part of the price....Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost....while it remained, was it not thine own? And when it was sold was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God....Ananias hearing these words, fell down, and gave up the ghost....his wife not knowing what was done, came in....Peter answered unto her, tell me whether you sold the land for so much? How is it that ye....tempt the spirit of the Lord? Then she fell down straight way....and yielded up the ghost....and great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things....

From the very beginning of time, it has been man's willful act of transgression, along with the deceitfulness of trying to cover it up by lying unto God that has brought about the curse of his wrath and condemnation upon the earth and upon all of mankind. When God makes a promise unto man, he keeps it in its entirety, therefore, it should be the same when we make promises unto God, it should be in its entirety, without the act of deceitfulness by pretending to give our all, but at the same time holding back a portion to ourselves. Sadly, we are taught by man to downplay deception as just a moral dilemma in our life in Christ, but it is truly a sin against God, which weakens the spirit of unity within the body of Christ. Therefore, the consequences of such deceit has always been, and will always continue to be a divine warning to the church concerning the seriousness of lying unto God, and the importance of being truthful and honest unto him, for God sees the heart.

1 Samuel 16: 7,....the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart....

God sees our inner intentions, our inner characteristics, and our inner integrity, and man focuses on physical attributes, and outward accomplishments. As believers, we are reminded to look beyond the outward appearances of mankind by encouraging those inner qualities that are pleasing unto God, so that we might not be persuaded by our worldly, lustful desires.

Mankind tends to judge the character and the wealth of others by looking at the outward appearances. Now, because God looks at the heart, he may often time choose those who are imperfect, but they are faithful, because the outward appearance does not reveal who and what people truly are. Outward qualities are superficial, and moral and spiritual considerations are that which is important to God.

Luke 6: 45 – 46,....a good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good....an evil man out of the evil treasures of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil, for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh....why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say....

The abundance of our heart as a believer will naturally overflow into our behavior and speech, making it a direct indicator of our true spiritual condition. In our life, we will either show that we are truly following Christ, or we will reflect the deceitfulness that is in our hearts. Therefore, according to the abundance of our heart will we either be justified or condemned.

So, here are three things that are not of God, but are a part of the lustful, sinful, deceitfulness of the world.

1 John 2: 16,....for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world....

The lust of the flesh is the carnal and physical desires that lead to self-gratification and draws us away from living a godly life. The lust of the eyes is a worldly craving for material possessions, health, and wealth, causing us to focus upon those things that are not Gods will for our life, and if allowed it will continue to open the door for numerous, sinful desires and actions. The pride of life is an attitude of self sufficiency and arrogance with an emphasis on worldly status and achievements. It is a worldly belief that causes us to think that we do not need God for our success or purpose in life. Therefore, let us as believers, never forget that the innermost secrets of our heart are visible unto God. We cannot lie to God without suffering consequence for our actions, for God is the truth.

1 John 1: 6, 8, 10,....if we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth....if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us....if we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in 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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