

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

7.5.2026

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 what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

God Gathers the Nations

Jeremiah 3: 11 - 20

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, and even though he offered all that he had, humanity continues to reject his saving grace, by walking in disobedience to the promises and commandments of his word. Now, even despite our rebellion, God's call to repentance continues, for he willingly extends forgiveness to all those who will by faith, believe and accept. So, we see one of two things happening in the world around us, and these things come unto us through the choices which we make. We either turn toward God, by faith believing, or we turn away from God through disobedience and unfaithfulness. Now, unto those who have believed, once the choice has been made to turn toward God, daily we must choose to remain headed in that right direction.

Therefore, no matter the situation, whether a believer under the law, or a believer saved by grace, choosing to turn away from that right direction brings with it the consequences of the wrath and condemnation of God. So, Christ himself summed it up in this manner:

Luke 9: 62,....no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

So, whether under the law, or by grace, God requires total surrender and commitment. This commitment represents the believer's spiritual journey to stay focused upon the teachings of his word, along with the hope of our eternal life in him. Believers cannot effectively serve God while still having a desire for that which we left behind, therefore, following him takes precedence over everything else. For a divided heart hinders our usefulness and our readiness when it comes to experiencing the fullness of our spiritual maturity and sharing the gospel of his saving grace with the world.

Jeremiah 3: 11 – 13,....the Lord said....backsliding Israel hath justified herself....go and proclaim....return thou backsliding Israel....I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you, for I am merciful....I will not keep anger forever....acknowledge thine iniquity....thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God....ye have not obeyed my voice....

So, let me explain the word backsliding: You can only find this term used in the Old Testament describing the believers who were under the law, those, who by faith, were following after that which was yet to come, but these were also those who turned, or strayed away from the commandments of the law, drifting back into their old sinful habits, into a backslidden condition.

Now, in the New Testament, through the covenant which God made with man by Christ Jesus, those believers who are saved by grace, but have become disobedient to his word, those who have tried to earn favor with God through self-righteousness, rather than putting complete faith and trust in Christ, and because we are secured in our salvation, we are not in a backslidden condition, but we have fallen from his grace.

1 Peter 5: 10,....but the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that we have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you....

In our life as believers, temptations, trials and tribulations are not only necessary, but they are temporary, and because of Gods unmerited favor, he does not abandon us in our time of need, but he meets us with an active grace. This encourages us as believers, and it shows unto us that our present struggles are not the end, for he takes responsibility for our spiritual wellbeing, building up our faith on an immovable foundation. So, we are to see things in our present age simply as a steppingstone in God's plan of redemption. So, no matter how far we may stray, or how badly we may fall, his grace reaches much further.

Jeremiah 3: 14 – 18,....turn, O backsliding children....for I am married unto you....and I will bring you to Zion....I will give you pastors....which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding....it shall come to pass. When ye be multiplied and increased in the land....they shall say no more....neither shall that be done anymore....they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord....they shall come together....to the land that I have given for an inheritance....

Even despite our wanderings, God desires all people to repent. For Israel who is Gods wife, he honored the sacred, intimate covenant of marriage, and his commitments remain steadfast, even when ours fail. So, he actively searches for and rescues those individuals, who through repentance, acknowledge past mistakes and turn back to his presence. Now, despite our unfaithfulness, through his spirit, he draws us back into a loving relationship with him. So, as believers, we are to seek out those who have been appointed by God, those whose teachings come by the truth of his word, those who display the true characteristics of Christ. These teachings began to come to pass with the fulfillment of the law through Christ, and by his crucifixion, the holy of holies was opened up to people of all backgrounds, so that his word is now written directly into the hearts of every believer. We can now avoid substituting the outward traditions, and symbols, and rituals, of worship, for true worship is all about a transformed and surrendered life in Christ. Therefore, through Christ, everyone is offered an eternal inheritance, so mans focus now shifts from a physical state to a spiritual state of peace, with a shared fellowship, and an eternal state of rest in the presence of the Lord. This is not only for Israel who is Gods wife so that they might return to his divine grace, but it is also for the church, who is the bride of Christ, it is a true identity, bringing all who is faithful together into a spiritual unity with God.

Jeremiah 3: 19 – 20,....how shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a....land....a godly heritage....and I said, thou shalt call me, my Father, and shall not turn away from me....so have ye dwelt treacherously with me....

So, despite repeated unfaithfulness, God's fatherly desire for an intimate relationship longs to trust all believers as his cherished children, granting unto us an eternal inheritance. By calling him Father, we are expressing our faith and trust in him, showing unto him an undying love while in our close personal bond with him. Therefore, even before delivering his messages of wrath and judgement, God encourages repentance with the ultimate goal of transformation and restoration. So, as we realize our mistakes, and we take responsibility for our sinfulness, God extends unto all an open invitation, promising to heal our falling away if we will return unto him.

2 Corinthians 12: 9,....my grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness....

It is our limitations as believers that perfects God's grace in our life. So, instead of removing our struggles and our challenges, he provides the exact amount of sustaining power that is necessary to overcome them. Therefore, learning to rely on his grace helps us to find peace and contentment while going through situations and circumstances in our life, which provides us with a glimpse of our eternal hope.

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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