

A scenic view of a harbor at sunset. In the background, there are several large, weathered wooden barns. In the foreground, two fishing boats are docked. The boat on the right is white with a cabin and has the number '21976' on its side. The boat on the left is white with a red stripe. The water is calm, reflecting the boats and the warm light of the setting sun.

**BIBLE STUDIES
ON**

Luke

**Food for the soul and
a delightful taste of
the eternity to come**

Bible Studies *on* *Luke*

These studies have been written to inspire each one of us to a deeper understanding of our relationship with God. It is my experience that we can never be encouraged enough in this and it is a great joy for me to take part in encouraging each of you. May God bless and strengthen each of you. And may He grant you fresh understanding and awakening as you take the time to study these lessons. It is my prayer that God would make use of this small attempt to spread His light and have requested that His life and wisdom be in these words for my words are nothing unless He is truly in them.

-Seth Petrofsky

_____ *Author's Note* _____

This is a collection of Bible studies written for the Sky Family
Newsletter between 2005 and 2010
By Seth Petrofsky

*All Bible references are from the NASB

ISBN-13: 978-1482619102

ISBN-10: 1482619105

Table of Contents

1. The Power Of Prayer -----	1
2. Luke 1:15-17 John The Baptist's Commission -----	3
3. Luke 1:30-33, 45-55 Belief In The Promises Of God -----	5
4. Luke 4:14-30 Simple Faith -----	7
5. Luke 5:12-15 The Proper Attitude For Prayer -----	9
6. Luke 6:43-45 A Tree Is Known By Its Fruit -----	11
7. Luke 6:46-49 A Firm Foundation -----	13
8. Luke 7:47-50 "Getting Saved" -----	15
9. Luke 8:26-39 Jesus Lights A Lamp And Sets It On A Stand -----	16
10. Luke 9:23-26 Letting Go Of The World -----	17
11. Luke 9:57-62 Light Your Lamps -----	18
12. Luke 10:18-20 Go Forth In Boldness -----	20
13. Luke 10:41-42 Choosing The Good Part -----	21
14. Luke 11:4 Forgiveness -----	23
15. Luke 11:33-36 Spoiling Our Eyes With The Riches Of Christ! -----	25
16. Luke 12:35-38 Be Ready To Open The Door For Jesus -----	27
17. Luke 12:40,42-43 The Faithful Steward -----	29
18. Luke 13:24-29 In Pursuit Of Jesus With Our Whole Heart -----	31
19. Luke 14:16-24 A Heart That Is Grateful -----	33
20. Luke 14:26-35 To Be A Disciple Of Jesus -----	35
21. Luke 15:8-10 The Lost Coin -----	37
22. Luke 16:10-12 We Are To Be Faithful -----	39
23. Luke 19:1-10 Today Jesus Is Coming To Your House -----	41
24. Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 The Imminent Return Of Christ -----	44
25. Luke 22:26-27 The life Of A Christian -----	46
26. Luke 24:45-49 Repentance For Forgiveness -----	48

Written by a fellow servant of Jesus Christ
Seth Petrofsky

The Power Of Prayer

Prayer really is the most powerful tool we possess. The devil knows that God hears the cries of His people and that he will have to turn and run from the situation. The Devil is very careful to try and not get us riled up enough to call for help. Instead he lulls us to sleep with pleasant distractions until we have no voice to cry out to God with. Let us wake up and use our voices to good account! The Devil loves it when we are asleep. Let us give him something to be afraid of! Let us pray for Christ's light to shine brightly from us. Let our hearts be continually towards everyone around us. Let us not be distracted by physical comforts or caught up in ourselves! Let us move forward in Christ as able members of His body. Let Heaven be in our sight at all times and let us not forget that we are strangers in a land that is not our own, but is passing away.

-Seth Petrofsky

Luke 1: 15-17

John The Baptist's Commission

“For John will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother’s womb. “And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. “And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Jesus in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

A people prepared for the Lord. What an amazing thought. John was sent to prepare the way for Jesus and here we have two of the specific commands he was given to accomplish. 1. To turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children. 2. Bring the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous. Let us explore these two things, but as we do let us think of them as a farmer would. These two commands are like plowing up the ground to get it ready for seeding. These things will get men’s hearts ready for Jesus.

1). Turning the hearts of the fathers back to the children. If we look at our human nature and the world around us we see just what kind of a challenge John would have had on his hands! There are more children without fathers, running around these days than there are those who have them, and by fatherless I don’t mean having fathers who have died, but rather having fathers who are so far removed that it is the same as not having them at all. Sex outside of marriage is no longer looked at as wrong and because of this girls go from living with one lazy and selfish boyfriend to the next, the result, many fathers who have no commitment to their “girlfriends” and even less for the children she may have from her previous relationships. John’s job was to remind the people of God’s laws concerning marriage and commitment so that the young men would wake up to their responsibilities of caring for their children, holding their relationship with their women as sacred, and turning their families back to obedience towards God.

2). Bringing the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous. This is bringing forth the laws of God so that all might know what they had been doing wrong in order that they might repent and turn back to the way of obedience.

These two things bring families back together and the laws of God back into practice. They were to convict the heart and bring repentance so that when Jesus came and died for their sins they might be ready for a new life in Him. When Jesus ascended into Heaven He told His disciples of His imminent return and that they must go forth into all the world preaching the gospel that the whole world might be prepared for His second coming. I

believe that John's two specific commissions are very much ours today. To restore the hearts of the fathers back to their families and to bring the laws of God back into their homes so that we all might be prepared for His return.

Lord please help us to become strong and courageous sons of God. Please help us to fix our eyes on You and to raise our families in obedience to Your laws. Please protect our wives and daughters and bless them with faithful and Godly husbands.

Written by a fellow servant of Jesus Christ -Seth

Luke 1:30-33, 45-55

Belief In The Promises Of God

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. “And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; “And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom shall have no end.”

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, speaks to Mary, “Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”. And Mary said, “My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold from this time all shall count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and Holy is His name. And His Mercy Is Upon Generation After Generation Toward Those Who Fear Him. He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent away the rich empty handed. He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his offspring forever.”

The promise of God given.

The belief in the promise being fulfilled.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Mary whereupon she magnified God and spoke what was and what was to be.

An angel appeared to Mary with a word from God promising that she would bear the The King of Kings, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who was going to be given the kingdom of David to rule for ever. She was going to bear The Son of God who would fulfill all of the promises that God had ever made to His people.

It is an astounding promise that has been made to her, and what I would like to particularly look at today is the fact that she believed what was told to her. For we see that even Zacharias in verse 18, failed to believe the word he also received directly from the same angel. And we can see from reading the verses about him that he was a strong man of God devoted to Serving Him and living righteously. So having an angel deliver the message does not mean that we will believe the word of God.

Believing is the key to the blessings and the heart of God. Talking to

a friend of mine this morning, we were discussing the challenge of serving God and at the same time trying to take care of our daily needs and earthly security. If God has called us to serve Him full time how do we get away from these pressing concerns? The answer? We must believe as Mary did. Believing that God's promises are true and that if we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness all these things will be taken care of. I'm afraid that if most of us and me included, were to have an angel appear and tell us that God will supply all our needs and concerns and not worry about them anymore but to go out and rescue the lost, we would probably end up in an argument with him instead of believing. Trying to explain to him why we couldn't possibly stop worry about them. We all have our reasons for why we can't have a simple trust in our Heavenly Father.

Believing is a gift from God and comes from having a deep relationship with Him. If we don't get to know Him personally we will always doubt His goodness towards us. If we don't spend time with Him it is easy for us to fall for the lies and false rumors that are spread around. We must ignore what is said about Him and meet with Him ourselves. How do we meet with Him you may ask? I'm glad you asked! The first thing is to find somewhere that is quiet so that you can focus your thoughts. Then kneel down and humble yourself before God and tell Him that you desire to truly know Him. It is important to keep in mind the verse in Romans 3:23 *"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* For all of us have sinned even if we don't fully understand what sin is or what sins we are guilty of. For God says that if we confess our sins He will be faithful to forgive us, and it is sin that stands between us and a true relationship with God. Then ask Him to come into your heart for He says in Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I (Jesus) stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him and he with Me."* If we are persistent in our desire to meet with Him we will meet Him. But it is important to know that we have an enemy (The devil) who will do everything to distract us from our goal. He will cause us to lose concentration in prayer. He will keep us occupied with work and entertainment. And He will use our sinful desires to plague us night and day. Our own bodies are against us in this battle to meet with God. But if we truly want the reward of being close to God we will get it if we persist for there is nothing that can keep us back from fully receiving this gift.

With a close relationship comes the gift of belief. We will know without a doubt that He is aware of our needs and problems and will see us safely through them. So I encourage you to spend your life in pursuit of this relationship for it grows deeper the closer to God you get. Jesus has opened the door to a wonderful relationship with the Father. Let us press on to enjoy the full benefits of this gift.

May God bless each one of us in our walk with Him. He is the fountain of life and the giver of all good things. Whether we have been with Him

for many years or are just meeting Him, in the journey towards eternity, we have only just begun!

Written by a fellow servant of Jesus Christ- Seth

Luke 4:14-30

Simple Faith

When Jesus came back to His home town, the unbelief of His friends and neighbors made Him unwilling to perform many miracles there. Their unbelief, it seems to me, probably stemmed from them having grown up with Him, and having known Him all their lives. Jesus explains to them how in the past God had done wonderful things even for many who were not His chosen people, just because they had believed in His kindness and mercy.

The people became angry with Him when He did not perform the miracles they requested, but they had asked with the wrong motives. They were not asking for miracles in humility and simple need but rather for their own gain. So when Jesus refused to gratify their fleshly desires, they quickly turned on Him in a rage, intent on killing Him.

Jesus illustrates in these verses that He rescues those who humbly trust in the goodness of God, and we have to be careful, as Christians, that we don't get caught up in a Christian lifestyle and forget that Jesus actually is God. He is not here to gratify our flesh, but to save us from sin. What do I mean by "Christian lifestyle?" Let me explain. The people with whom Jesus was speaking to in these verses were "Godly" people, people who were chosen by God Himself to be His people forever. Their whole lives revolved around going to church and performing all of the required sacrifices which were written in the books of the law as they knew it. And yet when Jesus came among them they could not believe the truth about Him. He was their blood relative not their God. So we also, as Christians, have to be careful to remember that though He has called us His brothers, He is our God and King!

"I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." -Jesus

Every miracle and every word of Jesus was performed and spoken with the intent to spread the reality of the kingdom of God. Jesus was not there to merely satisfy man's desire for amazing works of God; He was there to teach the truth and the miracles were just a part of His ministry to the poor who would never be able to afford physicians. Jesus was on a mission of mercy; He was not out to proclaim Himself as great in the eyes of the people.

Jesus' ministry was to meet the needs of the poor and to humble the proud. He was not trying to win man's esteem through His actions; He was glorifying the name of God by doing God's wonderful and merciful work. He came to show us how much God cared for his poor, sick, and lost sheep. Jesus was God's hands, feet, and mouth, and not His own.

Jesus was not seeking the praises of men and would not stay very long in any one place, but once he had completed His work, he would move on. A normal man would probably have wanted to linger once he had done something wonderful for someone, desiring to enjoy their praises. Jesus had truly done something amazing for these people; He was deserving of the highest praises, and yet He would not stay to receive credit, but told the people He must continue on with His work for His heavenly Father. All He did was for the glory and honor of God.

Question: How often do we emulate Jesus in this way? What are our motives for serving God? Do we have selfish motives mixed with the good?

Question: Do we get annoyed if we do some selfless act of kindness, and no one seems to notice or thank us for what we did? Do we wait around to see if anyone will say something? If by some miracle we pass that test, what if we do that same selfless act for someone, and they not only don't notice that we did it, but they accuse us of not doing it and proceed to get angry with us for forgetting that it needed to be done?

Question: What if we go out of our way to make someone a special dinner, and they get home and complain about what they had wanted to have for dinner and expect that you should have known what they wanted that night? Can we pass these remarks or accusations without complaining or getting upset?

We always seem to have a reward in mind for whatever we do. We desire for them to be thankful. Not that it is wrong for them to thank us, or to praise us; however, Jesus wants us to seek God's approval for our acts of kindness, so that we are able to go the extra mile in kindness, whether it is for a friend or for our worst enemy. If God is the one who rewards our actions, He will sustain us while we do the humanly impossible, which is to love our enemy. Jesus wants us to have genuine love for all those around us. He wants us to be confident in God knowing that He truly rewards all our actions whether or not anyone else does.

We belong to God. We are His children. We are to be His hands, feet and mouth, not our own! As long as we seek the notice and praise of men for what we do, we will always fail in showing God's love, for we are seeking the world's love, and not God's. We must do all things without being bribed, bought, or silenced by the world's hatred or seduction. We are God's children, and all the rewards for our actions will come from Him. We must be faithful.

We must be about our Father's business, which teaches and trains us

for compassion for all mankind, so that we cannot keep ourselves from stopping and helping everyone we meet! We need an outpouring of compassion for our neighbor. We need to understand our eternity, and how it is beyond price. If there was a way to save up and buy it, we would work our whole life to obtain it. Instead, God simply requires us to be faithful with the jobs that He gives us, and not to ignore or walk away from our duties. We must not be bribed, enticed, or attacked off of our foundation in Him and His work.

Luke 5:12-15

The Proper Attitude For Prayer

And when it came about that while He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man full of leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out His hand, and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him. And Jesus ordered him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, for a testimony to them." But the news about Him was spreading even further, and great multitudes were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

I would like to discuss the heart attitude of the leper. Now when the leper met Jesus he fell on his face and poured out his heart to Him saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him saying, "I am willing, be cleansed." This man had a very real and deadly disease and when he met Jesus he was not shy or reserved in his request for healing and neither did he doubt that Jesus was able to heal him. His request, "Lord if you are willing, You can make me clean" is a beautiful prayer to our Lord. He was not demanding that Jesus heal him and at the same time he's not implying that Jesus should have no real desire to heal him. He is humbly pouring himself out to Jesus with his very real request.

I think that we need to take a moment and remember that Jesus is a person. He is the same now as He was then. So often I think that our prayers to Him are not real. I mean, we don't treat Him as if He is really listening to us. Because of this we remain very reserved in how we pray to Him and rather than lying prostrate on the floor before Him with our requests, we mumble a few words which we don't truly believe he will answer anyway, and if we have any belief it is usually that He wouldn't want to answer us anyway.

Our God loves us! We must approach Him with this attitude if we are to have victory in our prayer life. This does not mean that He will say yes to everything we ask of Him, but we will always receive an answer as to why He says no to some things. It is a real relationship that we have with Him, remember that! He loves us dearly and sent His Son, who came willingly, to die for us because of His love for us! Jesus purchased this relationship for us!

Therefore, let us not be backward in our prayers, mumbling and disheartened, but rather let us be bold and enjoy the privileges and blessings of the relationship that Jesus gave to us!

May God bless and encourage each of you this day in all these things!

Luke 6:43-45

A Tree Is Known By Its Fruit

“For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit: nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which is in his heart.”-Jesus

Jesus tells us here that what comes out of our mouth is what is in our heart and if our heart is pure then good things will come up out of our lives, both from our mouths and from our actions.

I have a question. Why does it seem like sometimes both good and bad things come out of us. Some times we are full of love towards people and at other times we can think incredibly harsh thoughts about those same people? How come it seems like we are able to produce both good and bad fruit? Here are my thoughts on this subject. It seems to me that Jesus’ words in verse 45 give us a clue. He says, *“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good.”* Jesus is talking about our heart. Now if our heart is set on Him and our desire is filled with the longing to be with Him and serving Him then what comes forth from our mouths will be good fruit. Our heart is on Him and our actions towards others will be inspired and motivated by Jesus Himself for we are in love with Him and it has become our desire to do His will. We desire Him to have complete control of all that we do.

Now if for a moment we take our eyes off of Jesus and we look to someone or something else to be our joy and excitement such as a wife or job or house or car or entertainment, then the fruit of that love will come out of our mouths and actions. Whatever it is that fills our hearts with the desire for it, that is what comes forth from our lives. Or if like Peter we step out of the boat in the middle of a raging storm to walk across the water to Jesus and we, like he did, take our eyes off of Jesus and look at the wind and the storm we will rapidly sink beneath the waves. How easy it is to be like Peter and to take our eyes off of Jesus. It is incredibly easy to look at the storm instead of at Jesus and lose all hope of rescue. Also, how easy it is for the Devil to use something we desire to tempt us to take our eyes off of Jesus to seek after it. (It is even more cunning when he uses things that are lawful to us by God’s rules.)

Our lives bear the fruit of what we desire and pursue. We must be careful that if there are things here on earth that we want, that we are careful

not to set our affections on them more than upon Jesus. Our desires must be set on Him and for all other things we must wait patiently to receive them from His hand. He is the giver of all good gifts and will be faithful to give them to us, and as Hudson Taylor that wonderful missionary to China said, "If it truly is a good gift then God will give it and if it is not a good gift, why want it?"

We will bear the fruit of what our heart desires and if we truly desire Jesus there will be no lack of good fruit coming forth from our lives. If we turn from that desire for Him even for a moment we allow ourselves to plant seeds that will bring up bad fruit out of our lives. We must quickly turn from these things and fix our eyes back on Jesus and pray that He will uproot all of the bad seeds that we have planted that they may not grow in us. We must strive to keep the weeds pulled from the garden of our hearts that the soil may always have plenty of room to produce good fruit.

May God bless each one of us this week and may He fill our hearts with a renewed longing to be close to Him and to have our lives full of good fruit.

Luke 6:46-49

A Firm Foundation

“And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who has heard, and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”

What a storm each of us can expect in our lives if we call upon Jesus to be our Savior! He has promised that we will go through a storm (or many storms) in order to find out if we are actually doers of His word and not just hearers, and to be able to take down a house it must be a fearful storm indeed.

I think the word of council here is that we must quickly go about checking our foundation to see if it is safely built on the Rock. We must look closely at our lives and at Jesus’ words to see if we are living by them in every area of our lives. A good concise outline can be found in the earlier verses of this chapter. In verses 20-45 Jesus gives us a close look at how we are to treat one another.

(-Giving to those who ask, without expecting anything back. -Loving our enemies. -Doing acts of kindness to those who persecute us. -Not judging or condemning. -To pardon one another. -To give freely to those in need. -To be joyful when people persecute us for our love and commitment to Jesus Christ. -To be bearing good fruit.)

How are we doing? Can any of us honestly say that at any moment day or night we would willingly do any of these things for someone, be they friend or enemy? Or do we say in our hearts, “I will give as long as I can be sure there is enough left for me to not have to go without what I need.” Or, “I can love this person as long as they never do such and such a thing to me again,” or “As long as they apologize then I will forgive.” We all want to add our own “clauses” to the deal. We do something as long as it works for us and doesn’t interfere with our own lives. Jesus does not say these things optional. He says, *“If you hear these words of Mine and act upon them,”* then you will weather the storms that He allows to test you.

Fortunately there is good news! The good news is that Jesus has made a way for us to be able to accomplish all of these things! Hallelujah! And it doesn’t involve making demands upon your heart to truly love this or that person! It doesn’t involve making yourself want to give your last dollar

to a poor man! It doesn't involve making yourself bear good fruit! There is no way we can make our heart want to do any of these things! We must go to Jesus and have Him give us a new heart, one that does love to do all these things. We must go to Jesus and ask Him for a heart that loves to do all these things and when we receive it all the things Jesus has told us to do will come naturally and easily. We must have a heart of love and compassion given to us by Him. We must have a heart transplant. Our job is to go to Jesus and ask Him for a new heart.

We ask ourselves, "Is it really so simple?" Jesus said that we must become as little children to begin to understand the ways of God. A little child automatically knows he must ask his parents for the things he wants, for he is dependant upon them for everything. Our old heart is not capable of the love and duty that Jesus says we must be doing in order to survive the storm. We can beat it to death and still it will not love with true Godly love. We must ask Jesus for a new one. Simple, and yet it truly is the only way to begin securing our foundation for the trials ahead.

The new heart that Jesus gives us does truly love our enemies. It does not even need to be told to love them, it already does. Our new heart does not need to be told to give without needing to be repaid; it loves to give this way! All these things that Jesus has required will take no effort; we will automatically start doing all these things. Don't get me wrong, the Devil will tempt us to give up doing these things so there will still be a struggle. However we will have a natural desire and ability through Jesus to start doing all of these things and indeed, our doing them will be a sign that Jesus has given us a new heart!

So let us not yell and scream at our old heart for not doing what it never could do, but let us sit quietly at Jesus feet as little children and ask for a new heart from Him. God bless you all and may He give each of you a fresh joy without measure and may others see that joy and find the Eternal Wellspring of Life through Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord for His mercies are new every morning!

Luke 7: 47-50

“Getting Saved”

“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.” And those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who even forgives sins?” And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Question - In the words of Jesus, *“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”* what is she saved from? Answer - She has been saved from her sins. Her past sins, and Jesus says they are many, have been forgiven her and her faith has saved her. Question - What did her faith do to save her? Answer - Her faith brought her to Jesus feet with a repentant heart. She believed Jesus was the Son of God and that He had the power to forgive her sins.

We speak of the words, “Getting saved” all the time but those words are full of deep and convicting meaning. I would like to convey the meaning of “Getting saved.” “Getting saved” is the result of distress and grief over our sins that we have committed. “Getting saved” is understanding that we have broken the laws of our Great and Mighty Creator and now deserve the consequences for our actions. “Getting saved” means understanding that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has the power to forgive our sins that we have committed against God. “Getting saved” means that when we have poured out our hearts to Jesus in grief for our sins, that he doesn’t turn away from us but says, *“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”* Being saved is to be saved from sin. Having eternity in Heaven is the fruit of being saved from sin. We must be saved from sin in order to enter into Heaven.

Now let me bring us back to the words Jesus spoke earlier in these verses. *“For this reason I say to you, her sins which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.”* Our love for Jesus is in direct proportion to how much we feel we need to be forgiven. If we love Jesus much our sins were deeply evident to us. But if we love Jesus little it means that we are largely ignorant of our sinfulness in God’s sight. A heart in agony over sin is one who has truly seen Jesus. A heart that does not see him does not feel the same remorse for sin. If there is no remorse than neither is there forgiveness for forgiveness is freely given by Jesus to those who repent of there ways. True remorse demonstrates its truth by walking away from the sinful lifestyle it was living in and into obedience to the laws of God. A heart that repents desires to do what is good.

So this is our calling. Once we have seen Jesus and met with Him we must become a visible representative of who He is so that not only will our words speak of Him, but our lives will reveal Him to those who have not seen

Him yet. We are to become like Jesus in every way that everyone might see Him through us.

May God continue to reveal Himself ever more closely to us that we might not forget His mercies towards us and return to our old sins. We have much work to be done. Let us be about our Heavenly Father's business!

God bless!

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus Lights A Lamp And Sets It On A Stand

But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him (Jesus) that he might accompany Him: but He sent him away, saying, "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

This man is an awesome example to us! Despised by the town and left for dead to live among the tombs and possessed by demons, this man was the most unenviable person in the town. But, he became the most blessed person in the town! The town rejected Jesus, but this man was not only healed by Jesus, but became a glorious witness for Him. This man was given freedom from a living death. The demons were constantly tormenting him and inflicting pain. Jesus released him from the bondage of Satan which no man could do. The men of the town had tried to control him by chaining him up, but he easily broke their chains. The best they could do was attempt to restrain him, but there was no cure. Jesus cured him!

We live in a body equally in bondage to Satan. A body full of evil desires and passions and the best our society can do is try and subdue them with drugs and medications, but there is no cure for the actual desires and rages. We can't stop the rampage of sin and its deadly consequences! But Jesus can! He is able to release us from Satan's power and to bring us out of the madness and death and into peace, joy, and our right mind. Jesus can speak peace into our lives casting out the demons of earthly desires and torments. Jesus has the ability to do what no man can do.

Jesus, please help us and set us free from sin this day! Jesus we need You! Jesus, we see from this story that the purpose of your journey to this town was to set this one man free. But that one man became a bright light to his entire town. Jesus, please cast all death from our lives today and set us free from sin. Lord, send us into our towns as bright lights for You this day!

Jesus we love You dearly!

Luke 9:23-26

Letting Go Of The World

And He (Jesus) was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses His life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

"Let Go", those are the words we need to be saying to ourselves. We need to let go of our struggle with this earth and all of its passing pleasures and securities. These words from Jesus are so clear and so sharp. They don't leave you wondering what He is trying to convey to us. "*For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?*"

So what does it mean to lose the world for the sake of Jesus? The simplest way to explain this is to say that we are to give up our earthly goals and plans to Jesus and live our lives for Him instead of for ourselves. This means giving Him complete control of our lives from what we should do for work to where we should go and what we should learn to best prepare us for the service He would have us to be doing for Him. Simply put, we give up the first one hundred years of our lives to do what He would have us to do and eternity will be ours to enjoy forever in His wonderful company.

Question - what are you doing right now that is more important than securing your eternity in Jesus? Question - what are you working on right now that will pass through the barrier of the grave? If you are not building with materials that can pass beyond this present life then you are not being wise with your time. Everything we do for Jesus will pass beyond the grave and be stored up in heaven as a reward for our labor. What we do for Him will not perish. Can we say the same about anything else we do? I have seen good men work their whole lives to pass on a great inheritance to their children and when their children are old enough to take charge of their inheritance they leave home instead, placing no value on all that their father has done for them. Their father's labor turns to nothing and degenerates back into the earth from whence it was produced. All labor comes to nothing in the end.

However, Jesus has a plan for each of us that will not turn back into dust. He has a plan for each of us that really matters! He has a purpose for each of us. Jesus has a job that is creative, constructive, and has eternal wages. Jesus truly has an exciting life for each of us. He knows what will bring joy to each of us and it is His pleasure to give good gifts that will bring us

great joy! All He asks is that we give our lives completely to Him and He will fill us to overflowing with true life, joy, purpose and excitement! We serve an awesome God!

“Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heaven, the earth and all that is in it.” Deut. 10:14

“You shall fear the Lord your God; and shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name. He is your praise and he is your God, Who has done these great things for you which your eyes have seen.” Deut. 10:20-21

Luke 9:57-62

Light Your Lamps

And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him (Jesus), “I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “the foxes have holes and the birds of the air have their nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Permit me first to go and bury my father.” But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” And another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

All these examples speak of the seriousness we need to have with regard to our walk with Jesus. The first man says, “I will follow you.” And Jesus says – count the cost. For you will no longer have a place to live. The second man is invited by Jesus who says, “Come follow Me.” But the man has responsibilities that weigh on him which he cannot shake and the job is not a sinful one – going to bury his father. But Jesus says, - any distraction no matter how important will keep you from ever going down the road of truly committing to follow Him. The third man says, “I will follow You but let me go home and say goodbye.” Nothing seems wrong with this request but to Jesus it seems to be one of the most fearful setbacks for a man and He says, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Jesus knows the seduction of our old life and that if we go back we are letting go of what is Holy and Righteous for what is worthless and the worthless will consume us before we ever get another chance to answer the call to follow Christ.

So the question is, “Where are you today?” Do you desire to have Jesus and still hold on to your old ways? Scary! Have you counted the cost that a commitment to Jesus truly requires? Are your obligations to the world more pressing than going out and proclaiming the Kingdom of God?

We are all guilty of looking back! We are all unfit and have turned back from the plow. This is indeed scary! Which one of us can honestly say that there is nothing that we love in this present world anymore, for our hearts are in heaven with Christ? I can’t remember at the moment but I believe it was Charles Wesley who said, “I have long ago lost interest in the world, and it has lost interest in me.” Can we say the same? Are we One hundred percent sold out for Jesus Christ? We have all been called to be disciples. We are not called to be Christians, but disciples of Christ. A disciple works for Christ and lives for Christ and knows everything about Christ that can be learned here on earth. A disciple is one who is devoted to his teacher. We have been called to be “On Fire” for our dear Savior not merely asking to be saved and then going about life as usual. We are to be transformed and glowing with the light and love of Jesus Himself!

Let us no longer mix with our old lives but let us come out and be lights set on a hill! Rise up Christian brothers and sisters – Rise Up! Light your lamps! Refill your oil! Wake your neighbor! Behold the Bridegroom is coming let us go out to meet Him! Jesus does not want a dead church, but one that is alive and desires Him more than life itself! Let the old pass away! Let the dead in your life bury their own dead – But You – Come and follow Him! We are all in this together and must wake each other up! Be on the alert and be found in readiness for His return!

God bless you all and may He give each of you His oil in abundance this day!

Luke 10:18-20

Go Forth In Boldness

“And He said to them, ‘I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning, behold I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven. And whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”
-Jesus, (Luke 10:8-9)

Jesus is talking to the seventy disciples He was sending out to preach the Gospel. And when they returned He said to them, *“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”* What an amazing testimony to the authority Jesus gave to His disciples! What a testimony to the authority He gives to us! The disciples returned saying, *“Even the demons are subject to us by Your Name.”*

We are soldiers for Jesus. But how is the battle to be won? Jesus says that all who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Our desire is to see men believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God. Authority over sickness and demons is a way to make things better for the people we desire to help, but it is their belief in Jesus that we are after. These things are tools for the greater work of belief in Jesus. It is Belief in Him that saves their soul and no amount of healing can actually redeem them. *“The kingdom of God has come near to you.”*-This is our message. Jesus follows up with, *“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”*

We must boldly move forward as those seventy disciples, bringing the Kingdom of God near to all men. Jesus has given each of us great authority to be used for the validation of the truth of what we speak, that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus’ disciples were just regular men who at that time hardly knew the truth of who Jesus really was, yet they were able to destroy the Devil’s kingdom! *“I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”* So also can we who have hardly even started down our own road as a Christian! We are able to destroy the Devil’s kingdom and all of his fortresses! He is no match for the power of God, and Jesus has told us to go forward in His power and rescue the lost from the power of sin. The Devil trembles before the smallest Christian for he cannot stand against them when they seek God for the downfall of his kingdom.

Sin holds all men captive and looks daunting as it invades our cities, and towns, and schools, and homes. But it is a lie meant to keep us cower-

ing in the corner or hopelessly mired in it's enticements so that we do not try to stand up against it. Gideon took a band of three hundred men with no weapons against an invading army as numerous as the sand. He won! The enemy was scattered! Joshua went against the city of Jericho with an army of men blowing trumpets. The walls fell! No siege or siege weapons! Victory belongs to our God and we are in His army!

Let us be bold and go forward in victory today! God bless you all!

Written by a fellow servant of Jesus Christ - Seth

Luke 10:41-42

Choosing The Good Part

But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered by so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken from her."

Jesus is addressing Martha who is rushing around the house trying to take care of all the pressing concerns of running everything and taking care of her guests. This is a very good lesson for me today and I'm sure you can all relate to it as well. I feel all the pressing concerns of staying alive in this world and trying to take care of my needs and it seems like an endless losing battle and I turn around and see someone just sitting at Jesus' feet letting go of the stress of this world and I complain to Jesus and say, "Lord there are too many things going on in my life that need to be taken care of, I don't have any time to spend with You." And Jesus says, "Mary has chosen the good part, and it shall not be taken away from her."

Lord this is such a comforting word from You. That if I stop and sit at Your feet and stop worrying about the world I will have chosen the better part and it shall not be taken away from me in spite of the impossibility of even having a moment to sit down with You. Lord this is such a comfort to my soul! So here I am sitting at Your feet desiring to learn from You, and to just enjoy Your company! Lord You are the Beauty of the Ages! Your wisdom and love are beyond my comprehension and yet You speak to me in the simplest of ways! Lord I love You and want to be like You. Do not let this portion be taken from me.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." -

Matt. 6:33-34

These are good verses for all of us. Jesus tells us that Mary chose the better part and that there is truly only one thing that is important and it is found by sitting at Jesus' feet. The concerns of this life will keep us going in endless circles and will continue to do so until we stop and spend time with Jesus. Getting our lives in order will never be finished as long as we live so learning this lesson early in life will be a great blessing to us! And Jesus reassures us saying that this blessing will not be taken away from us if we will do it. Hallelujah! Let us all pause and take a moment to pray and seek out His Company.

Lord give us rest from our fears and concerns this day! Lord help us to seek the safety of Your Company. Lord we are torn from Your side by an endless gale (strong wind) of worldly distractions and fearful necessities! Lord we seek You out this day and desire to sit at Your feet. Lord fill us with Your peace and speak to us with Your gentleness and wisdom. Amen.

Luke 11:4

Forgiveness

“And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves do forgive everyone who is indebted to us.” –Jesus

Forgiveness from the heart is a special thing, it is to be a reflection of the forgiveness that God has had toward us.

“He who is forgiven much, loves much.”

Forgiving others who have hurt us or stolen from us or said sharp words toward us or spread false rumors about us, is not an option. Jesus does not say that it is good to forgive if you can, but that, as God has forgiven us so must we forgive them.

There are two requirements that I can see right away that are needed for this to take place. One is a real understanding of how much God has forgiven us of, and the other is a real love for our neighbor, as Jesus said, we are to love our neighbor as our self.

1. The real understanding of what God has forgiven us of. This is not just a matter of saying that our sins are so bad that Jesus Himself had to pay the penalty for them with his death, which is true. But it is coming to understand just how corrupt each of us really are. It is understanding how sinful and selfish our motives are and how truly mean and spiteful we can be, particularly when someone gets in the way of something we want. We are capable of lusting and coveting with our eyes while at the same time maintaining an outward, seemingly selfless friendship. It’s amazing how we are always able to defend our motives no matter how much they might be hurtful to someone else. However, even more than these things, is how capable we are of hurting our Heavenly Father! We mistrust His motives toward us, suspecting Him of treating us how we treat others. We have a corrupt nature and so we suspect Him of all manner of evil, not understanding what pure and unselfish motives really are. They are like another language which we will never learn how to speak unless our Heavenly Father will teach us. God forgives us continually while we are constantly hurting Him with our thoughts and our actions.

It is amazing how quickly we just assume that God will have grace towards us, as though we deserved it! We don’t. We assume that He simply understands and won’t take what we are doing the wrong way or have to punish us. But let someone do something that hurts us and we never put the best motives on their actions, in fact, very often we take offense at things that didn’t even happen. A look or a shrug, talking, or not talking, we quickly assume that what they did or didn’t do was meant to hurt us. Yes, we are quick to assume that others will forgive us and at the same time we are slow to forgive them.

2. Real love for our neighbor. Real love for our neighbor is to always love them no matter what they do that hurts us. Unselfish love is the only thing that can accomplish this and unselfish love is a gift from God. It is not something we have unless He gives it to us. I want to encourage each of you to read some stories from the organization called Voice of the Martyrs. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand demonstrates amazing unselfish love in action. His life is a testimony of real love for those who tortured him day and after day for holding on to Jesus. It makes our fights and disagreements with each other and our neighbors (this could be anyone), look like nothing in comparison.

We all have such shallow and surface love unless God gives us one that is deeper. Let us pray earnestly for God's love, and let us pray earnestly for one another. God generally seems to teach us true love through real trials. He doesn't test our love on situations that our shallow love can overcome. They will be trials and challenges that require constant prayer and time in God's presence to be able to overcome. So let us keep each other in prayer! We will need each others support! God Bless!

Luke 11:33-36

Spoiling Our Eyes With The Riches Of Christ!

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it away in a cellar, nor under a peck measure, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter may see the light. The lamp of your body is your eyes; when your eye is clear; your whole body is also full of light; but when it is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Then watch out that the light in you may not be darkness. If therefore your whole body is full of light, with no dark part in it, it shall be wholly illuminated, as the lamp illumines you with its rays.” - Jesus

Let us begin with a one simple definition for what the light is that we are to put on the lampstand. There are two parts. One is the written word of God and the other is the fruit of Godly men who have been obedient to His word. If therefore we keep the word of God and the works of Godly men and women closed and in some corner of the house we have not put God’s lamp on the lampstand in our house. We have the light but we have covered it up. If we have covered it up—what is the light that we have put in its place? If for twenty three and a half hours a day we are most likely not reading our Bible, what have we put in its place?

What do you do with your time every day? How much of what you put in front of yourself all day long actually causes you to think of Jesus? Do you think of Him? Do you think about what He would have you doing for Him today? Do you reflect on how your character is like His or not like His? Putting these thoughts in front of you during the day is to put God’s lamp on the lampstand. But if you put down your Bible in the morning and turn on your favorite non-Christian radio station or your favorite TV show or start reading the magazine you picked up at the grocery store, this is placing an ungodly light upon the lampstand. Jesus says that the eye is the lamp of the body. The body is filled with the light that the eye sees and if the eye is subjected to God’s light all day long then the body will be full of light all day long. But if the eye is subjected to other things no matter how short that period of time may seem, the body will be filled with darkness!

Jesus concludes with saying that the entire body is affected by what it sees. It is either full of light or oppressed by darkness and He says to be careful that what you fill your sight with is not darkness.

(Application and perspective)

Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, if there is any excellence and if

anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”

Often we talk about the light that comes to us as being how we view it. We say that it is our understanding, or our perception of the circumstance. This is true, “understanding” is a lamp that the body uses to see by, but if the eye is only subjected to seeing what is wicked then it does not give the understanding anything to compare its wisdom to. Therefore, good and holy things must be placed in front of the eyes that the understanding might have something to build upon.

The eye needs to be fed and spoiled with the riches of Jesus and His words! There can never be too much of the Light of Christ in our eyes! We all know that a child can easily be spoiled by continually giving him gifts of whatever he desires. – This is our chance to be spoiled with the riches of the wisdom of Jesus, spoiled with what can only make us better! Let us spoil our eyes with continually placing Him in front of us all day long! Let us partake of His wisdom and never be satisfied. Truly He is the only one who can satisfy us and at the same time leave us desiring more of Him! All things have a beginning and an end, but not Jesus; there is only a beginning with no end!

So let me encourage each of you today to spoil your eyes with the light of Christ. Place Him before you all day long. Get into His word whenever possible. Read stories of His faithful missionaries. Write out memory verses and take them with you to work. Turn off the TV and spend that half hour with Jesus! Ask Him what you can be doing for Him. Be faithful with the little He has already given you and He will make you faithful with much!

God bless you all!

Luke 12:35-38

Be Ready To Open The Door For Jesus

“Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps alight. And be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master shall find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come and wait upon them. “Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.” - Jesus

- What does it mean to be dressed in readiness?
- What does it mean to keep your lamps alight?

To be dressed in readiness requires us to be wearing our servant’s uniform which means that we are not to be dressed in our pajamas! It means that when Jesus arrives we don’t want to be in the middle of some sinful desire or a pursuit of an earthly ambition. We want to be found doing His housework, His chores, His duties, all the things He left on the list before He went away, and even more than this He will be returning from a great celebration and we should be desiring to do something extra special as a surprise for Him! To be dressed means that our thoughts are continually on maintaining His house.

-Evangelizing, -Training our brothers, -Living by example, - Spurring one another on to greater works for God. These things should cause us to be dressed for action 24 hours a day. We are to always be on duty.

To keep our lamps alight means to be spending time with God. When we sit at God’s feet He renews the oil in our lamps. Every time we sit in God’s presence He is actually transforming us and renewing us like water to a tree. Sometimes it can take half an hour of just sitting still before Him just to clear our minds from the panic and stress of the day. But after that half hour His peace fills us to overflowing and we are filled with His oil. Verse 32 is a wonderful word to dwell on as we pray for His peace. *“Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”* –Jesus Wonderful and gracious words from our dear Savior who knew how much we were going to need them. I just love Him more everyday for His thoughtfulness in leaving me with words like these. Jesus we love you so much!

I just want to finish with what Jesus says in verse 40. *“You too be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”* When Jesus says that it could be the second or third watch it means that it will

be quite late and will be hard for us to remain alert. And let us take warning from the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25 for it says that there will be a great shout or wake-up call and it will be too late for those who have no oil to be able to get any! At the shout it is already too late. The Bridegroom arrives and the five without oil are still seeking it when He comes and takes those who are ready. The oil is found by putting aside everything that seems important in this world so that we might spend time with God, and like that parable tells us, the five who had oil could not give theirs to the ones who didn't have any, just as I cannot give any of you the time I spend with God, I can only direct you to seek Him earnestly. My time with God only fills my lamp! It is impossible to fill your lamps with my oil. And oil cannot be had casually from God, it takes spending a lot of time with Him. If you wait for the shout you have waited too long to seek Him earnestly! There is not enough time at that point and you will be left outside the gate. He says that at the shout all will wake up, some will be ready and some will not. I earnestly entreat each of you; do not wait for the shout before you start seeking Him with your whole heart!

Now is the time to take our salvation seriously and to keep each other alert. May God bless each of us with an awakening before it is too late!

Luke 12: 40&42-43

The Faithful Steward

40- "You too be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect." 42&43- And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?" "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."

Do we need any stronger word to be spoken to us in regard to being prepared for Jesus' coming? He is speaking directly at us. Which of us can think we are exempt from the words, "YOU TOO"? That means all of us. If Jesus says that it will be an hour that we do not expect then it will be an hour that we do not expect!

If we think of ourselves as guards on watch duty and every day from 9 in the morning until 5 in the evening we are at the wall to watch for incoming armies it would be wonderful to think that they would only attempt to attack during those hours so that we could take the rest of the night off! But that is not how they operate! They seek for a time when we are not watching! But let us consider another scenario. You are on the night shift and you get tired of standing so you pull out a rocking chair, the air gets cold so you start a little camp fire, your eyes get tired from endlessly looking out into the dark at nothing so you pull out a book to read, you are technically on duty but you might as well not be because your completely lost in the comfort of your surroundings. In this state of comfort the enemy could walk right up to the gate and you would not even know it in spite of being on the wall. I say all of these things to warn us as Christians that if we call ourselves Christians it means that we have chosen the duty of being soldiers for Christ but if we have surrounded ourselves with every worldly comfort and pastime then Jesus will come upon us while we are unaware even though we could technically say that we were on the wall waiting for Him. In Luke 13: 24 Jesus says, "*Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*" That narrow door means to take our call of salvation seriously and not treat it as though we were already in heaven! We are on earth and have a responsibility that needs to be carried out. If the soldier on the wall falls asleep and does not warn of the approaching army then it is his fault that the fort has been defeated by the enemy! He has let his comrades down and has to live with many regrets, if he survives the attack.

So Jesus says, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?" That is us! We are all stewards for each of us has a Bible and if you have a Bible you are responsible for sharing It's words with others. That

Bible that sat on the shelf for the last 40 years in our room will convict us into the dust when we stand before Jesus empty handed and try to tell Him that we didn't seem to have any talents to work with. To have a Bible is to have no excuse before God. We had His word, why did we not treat it like the air we breathe? Why did we not crave its truths and love its testimonies of those who were faithful to follow Him? Why did we not seek the wisdom found in it for every aspect of our lives? One preacher I read about would not preach on any book of the Bible until he had read it through 50 times! In China they get a Bible and take the pages out and pass them around to each other taking turns until they have memorized what they have that they might not forget the words of God. We take the Bible for granted over here! Oh! Let us love and cherish God's word and eat it like food! Let us not run from our accountability to It's words, but love the accountability as we love our own lives!

Jesus says to feed our brothers as faithful stewards of His word. How do we do this? Consider the illustration of an apple tree. It feeds off of minerals in the soil that are inedible to us and yet vital for our existence and produces a fruit which we can eat, made up of those minerals! God designed it so beautifully that rather than make us eat pieces of rust to get the iron our bodies need He gave us an apple! The inedible made edible! So we must eat the word of God daily that we might produce fruit in our lives that others can eat. - If we write we can write edifying things, -if we play the guitar we can write worship songs, -if we like to clean we can seek out people who need help in their homes and share an uplifting verse with them. If we turn off our worldly entertainment and feed our minds on the riches of God's word our lives will not be able stop the fruit that will come pouring forth from them and giving life to all who come into contact with us!

May God fill us with a fresh desire to read His word and to live by His commandments? Let us be found at His return having been faithful with the stewardship that He has left us to do. God bless you all!

Luke 13:24-29

In Pursuit Of Jesus With Our Whole Heart

“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, Lord open up to us! then He will answer and say to you, I do not know where you are from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets; and He will say, I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being cast out. And they will come from the east and west, and from the north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.”

To strive to enter through the narrow door is to desire Jesus with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. To strive is to let go of the things of this earth and to hold onto Jesus for dear life. To strive is to seek to obey him with all of our might and when our might fails to achieve the desired obedience then to give our lives completely to Him and let Him be our might and power! He is God! Lord and King of all His creation! We are His creation! His might and power will indeed set us free from the power of sin!

Let us look at the crowd Jesus is addressing in this teaching and examine ourselves to see if we also will find ourselves outside and unable to enter in. The people Jesus is addressing are people like you and me, just listen to their reasons for why Jesus should let them enter into heaven. “We ate and drank with You”, “You taught in our streets”. These were people who would recognize Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the prophets. These were people who considered themselves to be on the inside circle, they ate and drank with Him, they considered themselves His friends. And Jesus says, “Depart from Me for I do not know where you are from.” Which of us does not consider ourselves the friend of Jesus? Which of us does not assume that we are going to heaven? I’m not saying that your salvation is not genuine, but look at those in this message and consider the folly of their assumptions. They were content to live in sin (lawlessness) and at the same time thought they were safely in heaven. We are not in heaven yet and if we have no fear of sin or sorrow for our actions then we must examine whether or not we truly know Jesus and whether He knows us! We do not want to find ourselves outside the door in the end.

So the real question you have to ask yourself, and do not take

this lightly or casually but take an honest look at yourself, is, “Do I know Jesus”? Think on this. Do you know His plan for your life? Have you honestly and whole heartedly asked Him? Did you ask Him what you could do for Him Today? He has work for each of us to be doing and a plan for the best use of our lives. Have you invited Him for dinner tonight? Is this a day that you have been eagerly anticipating because you have made plans with Him and He is bringing a special gift for you? Have you asked Him what pleases Him or what kind of surprise you could give to Him and then gone out of your way to get it for Him. Have you noticed that His heart was heavy today and He could use a cheerful word from you? You see these are relationship questions. Jesus wants to know you and it should be your desire to truly know Him and to please Him in every way you can.

The people in this warning were not real friends, they were just there for their own gain. So ask yourself, “Do I seek after Jesus for my own personal gain and care nothing for His laws or do I seek Him because I love Him and desire a relationship with Him?” A relationship with Jesus brings a desire to obey Him and in that desire to obey Him comes sorrow for sin and complete transformation from who we used to be into sons and daughters of God.

Oh Lord, we desire to pursue You for who You are and not for what You could do for us. We love You not your miracles! Your miracles are a blessing in our lives but it is You we desire! Oh Lord, remove the cloud from our eyes and let us gaze at Your beauty! You are Our Lord and Savior! We kneel before You and give You our lives!

Luke 14:16-24

A Heart That Is Grateful

But Jesus said to him, “A certain man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, Come for everything is ready now. But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, I have bought a piece of land and I need to go and look at it; please consider me excused. And another one said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused. And another one said, I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come. And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame. And the slave said, Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room. And the master said to the slave, Go out to the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.”

I would like to talk about what it means to compel men into the banquet that our Lord has prepared, but first we must take some time to consider why there were empty seats at this banquet to begin with. Jesus says that there was a guest list for which the banquet was originally prepared, not strangers, but people who knew the gentleman who had prepared the dinner. Why did they decline to attend the banquet at the last minute when everything was finally ready for them? Let us examine their excuses. 1. I have bought land and want to go and look at it. This man’s life was caught up in the excitement of being the proud owner of a new piece of property and he was much to excited about going to see it that he couldn’t possibly make it to the banquet. 2. I have bought five yoke of oxen and am going to try them out. This man has just invested a lot of money in his business venture and is anxious to get to work and make some money. Buying five teams of oxen would have been very expensive, but they would be capable of covering many acres at a time, thus able to earn more money. This man refused because he was more excited about his business plans than he was about the banquet. 3. I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come. Oh how love makes one blind! He was to busy with his new marriage and establishing his new home to possibly have time to attend the banquet to which his neighbor had gone to so much trouble over.

These three examples have a couple of things in common. First and foremost is a lack of gratefulness for the one who had gone to such great lengths to prepare the feast. The second was being so caught up in there own pursuits that they would not let go of them in order to attend. How many

times does Jesus ask us to stop what we are doing and spend time with Him and instead we find ourselves to busy with our work, our pleasure, or something just coming up. How many of us consider that in Isaiah 58 God tells us to turn our foot from doing our own pleasure on the Sabbath and to spend time with Him calling the day our delight, the Holy day of the Lord and that He will bless us mightily for doing so. And that Keeping the Sabbath Holy is one of the Ten Commandments. How many things do we do on the Sabbath that are not spending time with Him. How many things do we do on that day that are for our own pleasure or earthly gain? The Devil works overtime to keep us from truly honoring God's Holy day. He makes all the sporting events to be on that day. He makes it the day to wash the car. He makes it the day to catch up on our sleep or our cleaning. He does everything but let our hearts be truly focused on God in a serious way. However, in Deuteronomy God promises that if the people will truly honor His Holy day than He Himself will make sure that their children love Him and grow up partaking of His righteous blessings.

Why don't we give our whole heart to God especially on the Sabbath? It is because we have not understood and appreciated the banquet that even now our Heavenly Father is preparing for us. Jesus gives us a word of warning here, saying that just because we were originally on the guest list does not mean that we will taste of the dinner He has prepared. He wants Hearts that desire Him and Hearts that are grateful as we see further on. The ones that He says to compel into the dinner have no other pursuits. They are the blind and lame and crippled. Theirs is a grateful heart. God very often needs to shake us up and give us a lameness in our body just so that we will be able to attend the feast without the worldly pursuits being able to keep us from coming. God has to pry our hearts off of this world so that we might be saved. In His mercy He is willing to do this for us, for who can let go of the pursuits of this world without His help?

So I want to encourage each of us today. Let go of the world. Hold on to Jesus. Love Him with your whole heart! Do not hold any of it back or reserve it for some other love. A good illustration is when the Philistines captured the Ark and brought it into the temple of their god and in the morning their god was on its face before the Ark. So they stood it back up and the next morning it was in pieces before the Ark. If you have brought God into your heart be prepared for your idols to fall before Him and if you put them back up be prepared for them to be smashed in pieces!

We all try to include God with our other pursuits and they are continually being thwarted and broken. Put God first and let Him fill your temple with every good thing that He Himself will provide. It is God and God, there will be nothing else! I have tried to put my idols up many times and each time I do they are harder to put back together until I finally give up because of the futility of battling with what He has brought down. Our God is an Awesome God! Listen to Him! He is the Only Way the Truth and the Life!

Luke 14: 26-35

To Be A Disciple Of Jesus

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him. Saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. So therefore, no one of you can be my disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The first verse speaks volumes. As I have been dwelling on these verses for the past week God has been continually bringing them to my attention each time that I begin to pray. I find my heart is full of its own desires and rather than being fixed on Jesus and His good purposes for my life, I would get tangled up in a battle of wills, my will verses God’s will. I will not say that my desires were necessarily wrong but they kept me distracted from enjoying God’s company and delighting in His plan for my life. Many times Jesus says to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all other things will be added to us. He says this because He knows that the Devil will keep us at the door of God’s thrown room by too much emphasis on our own cares and worries and desires so that we won’t be able to get past them and actually enter in and lay them at His feet. Jesus very much desires that we would give all of our relationships and desires to Him and seek Him first above all else. He wants us to delight in His company and just spend time with Him. After which He will take care of all that we need above and beyond our highest expectations.

So now we start to understand why Jesus has to speak so strongly about our family and friends and our own lives. We need a strong word so that we will stop our arguing with Him and start enjoying His love. He really really loves us and He has a wonderful plan for each of our lives, but we won’t accept it from Him while we are arguing with Him and fighting with Him over all the things He allows to happen to us.

Jesus continues on to say that there is a cost to being His disciple, a cross to bear and that we must spend some time counting it so that when the troubles and trial come upon us we endure them patiently without complaint. If we have counted the cost then we will have embraced the commitment to serve Him no matter what. Jesus does not try to gloss over the hardship we will have to endure but He does say that His burden is light and His yoke is easy. If we have put Jesus above all others in our lives then we will not fall away when disaster comes upon us.

This leads me to what Jesus says about salt which is that if it loses its saltiness it is good for nothing. And what does this mean? It means that if we are walking with our eyes fixed on Jesus abstaining from the earthly lusts which were ours in our ignorance than Jesus is going to use us for His work, but if and when we take our eyes off of Him and look back again at past desires for the things of this earth we immediately lose the conviction and saltiness of Christ in our testimony and our lives become compromised with our old sinful pursuits. This happens on a minute by minute basis for when we become partial to the things of this world we lose our voice to speak against it. I deal with it all the time. The Devil continually tries to entice me back to my old sins and if even for a moment I begin to harbor those desires again in my heart The Fire of the Lord grows dim in my life. And trust me, the farther you come in your walk with Christ, the more God is making use of you to the people around you and in equal proportion the enemy is trying to make you fall back into sin so that he might also drag down all those who are looking to you for Godly support. To keep our lives pure from immorality and selfish ambition is to remain salty and to show partiality to these same areas is to lose our saltiness.

So let us pursue Holiness and Righteousness with our whole heart and walk in the love and strength of our Lord Jesus Christ in Whom is found all that we will ever need both now and for eternity. God bless you all!

Luke 15:8-10

The Lost Coin

“What woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’ In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Are you earnestly looking for the lost coin? Jesus defines the coin as a sinner and that finding that lost coin is to see a sinner turn to repentance. Heaven puts great value on that coin saying that the angels rejoice over each one that is found. This is a convicting word for us as Christians. If all of heaven has put such a great value on that lost coin should we not be in complete unity with this desire. Should we not be pursuing the lost with the great desire to rejoice with all of heaven’s hosts over each one? Our hearts should be burning within us to be searching for them and yet we have to ask ourselves if we have even noticed that we were missing a coin. All of heaven is watching for that one sinner who turns to repentance, should we be doing less? To any Christian these should be stirring words that cause us to look into the practical application of doing this.

The woman began by lighting a lamp and then swept the house carefully until she found it. How do we apply this? First let me say that if she was not focused on finding the coin she may never have found it, for if she was daydreaming or wishing she was somewhere else or to preoccupied with other chores, that coin would have either taken forever to find or perhaps never been found. But that coin meant the world to her and she searched earnestly until it was found. So also with us, if we do not pursue that coin with our whole heart and just casually search the floor without really paying close attention we will also not find it. We cannot pursue the coin casually just hoping to possibly come across it while we do other things. Jesus’ example of being a fisher of men is a good description. A fisherman would not go out fishing and hope his net might fall overboard and possibly while it was down there, catch some fish. It takes a determination and physical labor to cast those nets and bring them in otherwise you will catch nothing.

Let us look at the other point which is that she first lit her lamp before searching. These are not ordinary coins but sinners in need of repentance that they might turn their hearts back to God. The light is Jesus, and His words expose our sinfulness and bring us to repentance.

Many times in the Old Testament a priest finds the laws of God that have been left neglected and buried for many years and brings them out and reads them to the people and exposes how far from God that they have strayed; whereupon there is much heart distress over what they have done and they make a recommitment to obedience to God. God's light is powerful and always brings conviction of sin. It is only under His light that the lost coin will be found.

So I just want to leave us with these convicting words. What is the net that you personally are casting, and where are you casting it? Each of us needs to ask ourselves these questions every morning so that when Jesus returns He will have found us faithful stewards of His talents. God bless each of you today and May He bless each of us with much fruit for our labors.

Luke 16:10-12

We Are To Be Faithful

“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”

Jesus tells us that the whole world belongs to Him, and that we are to be faithful stewards of what He has given us to work with until the day of His return. I would like to take a few moments and ask us to think about some questions.

1. Some examples of being faithful with money.
2. Some examples of being faithful with our property.
3. Some examples of being faithful in our friendships.
4. Some examples of being faithful with our talents which bring people to Jesus.
5. Some examples of being faithful with our time.

Take a few moments to think about how each of these things can best be used in the service of Jesus. I find that the parable of the prodigal son in chapter 15 of Luke gives us a good illustration of how we are to view our lives as Christians. Just imagine that after the father has shown so much love and grace towards his unfaithful son, that the son starts to take his fathers love for granted and starts to steal from his father again or to try and make a profit for himself off of his father’s goods so that he can pursue the things that got him into trouble in the first place. It would be a great crime against the love his father had shown him. We also must not misuse the grace that our Heavenly Father has had towards us and use His blessings for things that got us into trouble before as well.

Now that we have looked a little into being faithful let us look at the warning Jesus gives us. He says that if we are unfaithful in a very little thing that we will also be unfaithful in much. How many times in a day do we let ourselves get away with little things? It turns out that much of our character is developed by the little things we do or do not do. Let’s just say that a Mom asks her son to take out the trash, the son says yes and then puts it off for a later time and then completely forgets to ever take it out. Jesus says that how we deal with such a small thing is how we will deal with big things. I’ve been the son who has put it off before and I’m sure many of you have been the mother who has asked. Our integrity is built by such small stepping stones

and they really matter as we grow up. I know that we all hope for the best as our kids grow up and that someday they will become “responsible”, but how they live now will not be easy for them to overcome when they are older, the same as a tree that is growing crooked and at a young age can be straightened with guide wires. However, when it is fully grown it will be impossible to straighten if it has been left to itself with no guide wires.

These are all good things to ponder. We must consider all things to belong to God and that when He comes He will give us what will be ours if we have been faithful with what is His.

Luke 19:1-10

Today Jesus Is Coming To Your House

“And He entered and was passing through Jericho. And behold, there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; and he was a chief tax-gatherer, and he was rich. And he was trying to see who Jesus was, and he was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. And he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” And he hurried and came down, and received Him gladly. And when they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner. And Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

This story brings me to tears. I can't help but feel the joy and thankfulness that Zaccheus must have felt when our loving Savior said, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” How can I expound on this? Zaccheus did it the best when he hurriedly came down and received Him gladly.

Today Jesus is coming to your house. How will you receive Him? Zaccheus' response was one of complete gratefulness and transformation. He immediately wanted to make right anything that he could, giving away his money and paying back those whom he had defrauded. These are things that will happen when Jesus comes to our house. Many of us are Christians who have felt this complete change of heart. This desire to make up for anything we have done against our neighbor and from then on to completely live for Jesus. It is a radical change that comes over us on the day we invite Him in. Our lives have never been the same! This demonstration of Zaccheus salvation is so touching and reminds us again of that day that Jesus came to our homes. The reason I wanted to ask the question, “How will you receive Him?” is because sometime we forget our first love and we push Jesus out of our house as we bring things in that are displeasing to Him. Jesus makes His exit slowly as we allow these other things to take His place until finally we forget all about Him or even notice that He is gone. Our lives are too busy to notice that He has gone. Then one day as we are cleaning we see a Bible lying on corner table under a pile of magazines and coffee cups and realize that it has been a very long time since we actually sat down seriously for an

evening with God. We don't remember why we haven't but something must have come up as it always does the moment you try and set aside some time for God. And suddenly we realize that we have allowed all sorts of vices and temptations to take root in the house and that it will need a thorough cleaning if we are going to invite Him back in again.

So, again my question is, how will you receive Him? With gladness or with heartache that He will require you to let go of the things that have displaced Him from your house? Are you willing for Him to take charge of cleaning your house from the things that displease Him? We have a very crafty and intelligent enemy who is always looking to infiltrate our home with the things that corrupt our minds and hearts. Things that make us forget what was so wrong with the world's pleasures and pursuits. The Devil's goal is to get us into arguments with our conscience over whether or not something is really that bad. The argument worked with Eve in the garden and it still works today. Are we willing to take an honest look at our lives and see how they measure up to the Ten Commandments? Are we willing to not let ourselves off the hook so easily and ask ourselves if we are really obeying them? Obedience to God's laws will change our lives and seem to restrict us from the things we are so used to doing. Are we willing to accept the fact that God's laws will not change and that it is we who must change. God's Ten Commandments will be our laws for eternity. If we don't like them now then we won't like them in eternity either. This is a simple truth and is a good point to ponder. In John 3 Jesus talks about bringing the Light and that men loved darkness rather than the Light. What is the Light? It is the clear view of the perfection of God and His glorious righteousness. And why do men hate it? Because they love to live outside of God's rules. Jesus calls it Lawlessness, that is, breaking the laws of God. Jesus is not going to change His laws simple because man does not want to obey them. The law shall remain. Jesus says that if we love Him we will keep His commandments, that is, we will strive to live in obedience to His laws. He also says that if we love Him we will not find His commandments to be burdensome. And David says it clearly in the Psalms that his delight was in keeping the laws of God. Obedience is delightful and full of the fruits of joy!

Jesus says that we will have joy in our trials. However there are two types of trials, trials that come because we have broken the law and trials that come because we are obeying the law. The trials that come from breaking the law are meant as chastisement and not meant to be joyful anymore than you would expect your child to enjoy being punished for doing something wrong. In fact, it would be very inappropriate for him to be joyful in being punished, but rather, you expect him

to humble himself and apologize for his actions. The other trial comes from obedience to Gods laws and having an enemy who is bent on keeping us from obeying them and encouraging others to do the same. There is joy that comes from God which comes welling up within our hearts when we keep away from temptation and honor His laws. Every day that goes by in which we stay out of the sins that have continually made us stumble in the past, our joy grows stronger. Our time of reading the Bible becomes clearer with greater understanding and our love for the Lord grows. This is why Solomon said that the fear of the Lord brings wisdom. The fear of the discipline of the Lord keeps us from sinning and the farther we stay from sin the more God give us understanding in His ways. A child that drinks poison every day will live in an unhealthy state without the full use of his mind, but the moment he stops drinking the poison his mind starts to recover. Sin is poison! We need to stop drinking it!

So I just want to encourage each of us to look closely at our lives and ask God how He wants us to live and then to be willing to have our lives cleaned up and made fresh and clean. Jesus is coming to our homes; let us receive Him with gladness!

Luke 21:25-28 & 34-36

The Imminent Return Of Christ

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

“Be on guard, that your hearts may not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is a clear word to us as Christians. Jesus says to be on guard and to keep on the alert at all times lest the day of His return come upon us suddenly. In other passages of scripture it says that the generation that sees Israel regathered as a nation will not pass away before He has returned. Israel was re-gathered in 1948 which is around the same time my Mother was born. (Just to put things into perspective) Jesus could return in my Mothers lifetime. So let us think earnestly about what Jesus is saying here, and that He is not trying to keep these things hidden from us but is speaking plainly. Let us think in terms of being a soldier and on guard duty. We have heard that a great army is approaching and that we must give warning to the rest of the troops before they get close so that everyone might have time to get ready and defend the fort. Now, it would be nice to think that we could establish a certain time every day on the wall and that the enemy should only try and attack during the time we have designated. However, the enemy looks for a time when we are not at our post or at least not going to be very alert so that they will have the advantage. We can see how foolish it would be to assume that the enemy will only attack when we are on duty. Let us compare this to our Christian walk. As long as the Lord returns on Sunday or Wednesday night we will be alert at His coming. Or as long as He comes when we are half asleep and trying to read our Bible just before bed, then we will not be taken by surprise. We can see from these examples that it is easy to treat our alertness for His coming too casually. Examine your day and ask yourself just how much time do you spend with Jesus in a day and honestly, how prepared are you too actually to meet Him?

Jesus says to be careful not to be tangled up in the pursuits of the

world and the worries of life. He was obviously quite aware of the daily struggles and earthly pleasures that we face. He did not make light of how hard it would be for us to hold on until His return and to be able to stand securely in His presence. He said, “Be on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place.”

Let us look at the practical steps for being constantly on the alert. We can start by setting time aside every morning and evening to be with Him. We can begin memorizing verses in the Bible or sing worship songs in our heart while we work during the day. This really helps during the day when we are bombarded by worldly music and coarse language. We have to counter those things that fill our minds with evil thoughts and desires by replacing them quickly with whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is true and of good repute. We have to take every thought captive. To be on the alert is also to be constantly ready to help our neighbor and to share the good news of the Gospel of Christ. We are to be continually sowing the seed of His word and to be unashamed of Him so that when He stands before the Father He is unashamed of us.

So let me encourage us to keep on the alert as soldiers of Jesus Christ who will soon return to reward those who have been faithful and to punish those who have not. God bless you all!

Luke 22:26-27

The life Of A Christian

“Let him who is the greatest become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.” –Jesus

What does it mean to become like the youngest and as the servant? Let me start by saying that the youngest has no right to look down on those who are older, but rather, looks diligently at the word of God to be sure that if he opens his mouth to those who are older, that he is speaking the truth. The youngest understands his need for God’s wisdom and that he really knows nothing yet but is still a child in all things.

To be a servant is to understand that you do not live by your own schedule. Your master may give you some part of the day to do what you like, but you live by the master’s direction. So unless otherwise specified, you are always on duty.

So with these two things in mind, the need for dependence upon God’s wisdom, and your time is not your own, we now have the proper attitude for those who are to be in God’s kingdom. So let me ask us some questions. How many of us, as Christians, truly consider all that we have and all our time to be God’s, or That every minute of every day is God’s to be used for His schedule of tasks and duties? Is our house at His disposal to be sold or kept? Are our children properly disciplined and trained up in the Word and available to be called into action for His work? Are next weekends plans willingly sacrificed for His work? Do we ask Him for His schedule every morning or do we make up our own? Do we live with His agenda or our own? Do we belong to ourselves or to God?

These are foundational questions for us as Christians and our effectiveness and fruitfulness depends on the answer that we give for each of them. We are to be completely His from the moment we become saved. We did not pay the price for our own salvation did we? Then we also don’t set the rules by which we are to live. They are established by our dear Savior who paid the price for us. But I want to say that our joy will also be found by how we answer these questions. Jesus, the rewarder of all who serve Him, gives a joy that is overpowering as we sacrifice each one of these things for Him and His work. It becomes our greatest pleasure to give up the world and our home here on earth for Him. Joy grows with obedience. The harder it is to obey and the harder the sacrifice the greater the joy that He replaces it with in our hearts. This world is passing away! In this light, what is there on this earth that is worth holding on to if it is going to pass away in the end?

Let us be willing to count all as rubbish for the sake of knowing Jesus. He is the beginning and the end! He is our Rock of Refuge! He is our Lord and King! His Word abides forever! Let us open our spiritual eyes and gaze into the heavens and into eternity. It will be upon us all too soon and we will wish that we had done more for the glory of His kingdom. We will all stand before Him and give an account for every word and action. Let us pursue all diligence to be blameless in how we have spent our remaining time while here earth. God bless you all!

Luke 24: 45-49

Repentance For Forgiveness

Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them. “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of my Father upon you: but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. – Jesus

“Repentance for forgiveness of sin should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” – Jesus

This is our banner. This is the Gospel. This is our message. Jesus says that if we repent He will forgive us. Repentance is the vital element in the equation. None of us are capable of repenting for things that we don't think are wrong. How are we to obtain true conviction for things we don't see as being wrong? This is the message of salvation. We are to preach what sin is – The Ten Commandments – The Sermon on the Mount, and with the Holy Spirit as our witness, He guides the message to their hearts and upon entering the heart sorrow for sin comes forth. This is where Jesus' forgiveness takes over and we find peace with God. With no understanding and sorrow for sin there can be no forgiveness and healing in Christ.

Jesus has come to reconcile us to the Father but there can be no reconciliation without acknowledging our sinfulness. We have been living our lives the way we have wanted to and allowed many compromises with the world to be part of what we do. However, the compromises may seem small to us but they stand in direct opposition to the laws of God. Example, the TV shows we watch take God's name in vain and promote cheating on our spouses, but because there are so many funny parts in them we continue to watch them anyway. – The video games that are played contain all kinds of gory violence, just think about the darkness and corruption of the minds that create them and yet they slip into our homes anyway. – The outfits that show off your sex appeal and cause other men to stumble in their hearts. – The enviable car that causes others to covet. – The perfect job, but it constantly boasts about how well it is stealing business from all the other companies in the area. – The sporting events that take place on Sunday's causing families to not be able to honor the Sabbath. This is our Lord's holy day and we treat it like any other day! Remember that these compromises don't just happen. We have an enemy who is always pushing the envelope on how much he can cause us to compromise on our obedience to God and he is very good at his job.

So we can see that no matter what age we are or what environment we are in there are many things that will cause us to compromise God's laws while we are hanging on to the things of this world. To acknowledge this compromise is to admit that there is sin in the things we love and that we will have to let go of them. God will not change His laws to fit our sinfulness. We are going to have to change and live by His laws. All of the grace that we give ourselves as to why we should be able to keep these compromises in our lives will not stand up in the presence of God when we stand before Him.

It is hard to acknowledge that the things we love compromise our walk with God. But if we will take a stand and part company with all sinful pursuits and ask for forgiveness and for the strength of God to let go of them we will find that the joy and peace of God fills our lives in a way that we have never felt before. The best comparison I can make is that of the day you were baptized and felt clean like you have never felt clean before. A clean spirit, a clean conscience and so close to God that you never want to let go of it for the rest of your life.

Our God is an awesome God, and our King has risen from the dead and will be returning for us soon! Let us be ready for Him!

~Notes ~

~Notes ~

Unashamed Ministries

The Sky Family

contact info

Canada

162 Harding Creek Rd. Clinton, PEI C0B 1M0

902-886-3320

e-mail: unashamed4christ@gmail.com