

Let's Worship God

10th-15th December 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 13:6-9 - Fruitlessness

The first thing we learn from these verses is that where God gives spiritual privileges He expects fruit. Christ compares the Jewish Church of His day to a “fig tree planted in a vineyard”. They are a nation separate from all the other nations surrounding them, receiving the revelation of God throughout the Old Testament, a revelation given to no one else, and things have been done for them and promised to them that were never done to Egypt or Babylon or Ninevah or Rome. They have been tremendously blessed. It seems only right that they should be expected to bear fruit to God’s praise. It seems that they of all people should be more faithful and holy and repentant and Godly. In the same way the Church today has received much spiritual blessings. We live in a land of Bibles, and freedom, and preaching of the Gospel. We understand clearly the plan of salvation. We too should be bearing much fruit of faith and Godliness. But often, like the Jews, we aren’t.

Christ warns us of the danger of this unfruitfulness. If our ministers are not teaching the Gospel, if we are not living holy lives, our Churches are in danger of destruction. God is observing us and will hold us accountable for the great privileges we have been given. We may be showing up in the pew on Sunday, we may be able to say all the right Christian things, but if there is no evidence of faith in our lives, we will be cut down. To be content with sitting in the congregation, listening to sermons, while we bear no fruit in our lives, offends God. But finally we learn from this parable of the great mercy of God through Christ’s intercession. It is Christ who speaks on our behalf, asking for mercy for us, mercy without which we would be destroyed.

Questions

1. What great spiritual privileges has God given you?
2. What is wrong with unfruitfulness?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we show fruit in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”
Luke 13:30

Praise: Psalm 130 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 13:10-17 - The Sabbath

This woman has been suffering for 18 years, but that does not keep her away from the worship of God on the Sabbath. Sickness is no excuse to her, but she makes her way to the place where the Word of God is taught and the people of God meet together. Many professing Christians can be put to shame by this. How often the littlest inconvenience keeps them home for worship. They assume that it is enough that they have come to morning worship and can't be bothered to come to evening worship. They find church tiresome and are relieved when it is over. Why? Why do so many have this attitude? Because they do not really love the things of God. Theirs is a weak faith if it is any faith at all. They have no desire to be in God's presence because they have no desire for God. But a man or woman with a heart for God will look forward to worshipping Him, will desire to be with His people, and will truly enjoy the Sabbath. Our feelings about Sunday are a good test for the state of our souls.

Christ shows His almighty power in these verses. He miraculously heals this woman after her 18 years of suffering. With Christ nothing is impossible. He can soften hearts which seem as hard as stone. He can enable sinners to look away from the things of this world to the things of God. The One who formed the world out of nothing lives, and He never changes. So let us not despair, but let us pray.

Christ also teaches those around Him of the right observance of the Sabbath. The fourth commandment is not intended to forbid necessary or merciful work. The Sabbath is made to help man not hurt him. We should pray that we would understand the law of the Sabbath. It is essential to our happiness, and it is far too easily misunderstood.

Questions

1. Why was this woman out on the Sabbath?
2. What is the purpose of the Sabbath?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would honour God on the Sabbath.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”
Luke 13:30

Praise: Psalm 131 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday -Luke 13:18-21 - Small Beginnings

The parable of the mustard seed is intended to show the progress of the Gospel in the world. The beginnings of the Gospel are exceedingly small. Its first founder is a poor man who dies on a cross. Its first followers probably do not exceed a thousand. Its first preachers are fisherman and tax-collectors, often uneducated men. Its first starting point is a despised corner of the earth called Judea. It provokes many enemies. If ever there is a religion that is a little grain of seed at its beginning, that religion is Christianity.

But the progress of the Gospel is great, steady, and continuous. In spite of persecution, opposition, and violence, Christianity gradually spreads and increases. In a few hundred years, the religion of the despised Nazarene, has overrun the civilised world. We should learn from this parable never to despise any work for Christ because its first beginnings are small. A single minister in some large town, a single missionary surrounded by unbelievers, a single reformer in the middle of a corrupt church - they may seem at first sight unlikely to do any good. The work may appear too great. But let us remember this parable and take courage. In spite of men and devils, the seed we sow may grow to a great tree.

The parable of the leaven is intended to show the progress of the Gospel in the heart of a believer. The first beginnings of the work of grace in a sinner are usually very small - a single sentence of a sermon, a single verse, a casual remark overheard, or some kindness received from a Christian. These lead to a few serious thoughts and a gradual growth in grace. The work of grace once begun in the soul will never stand still. Sooner or later the whole man will be changed. Let us learn from these parables never to despise the day of small beginnings.

Questions

1. What does the parable of the mustard seed mean?
2. What does the parable of the leaven mean?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's power to work from small beginnings.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

Luke 13:30

Praise: Psalm 132 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 13:22-30 - Too Late

When our Lord Jesus Christ is asked a question about how many will be saved, He replies with a command. He is not going to gratify the curiosity of His questioner, but press home to him and all around him, their own immediate duty. In taking care of their own souls, they will soon find the question answered. In trying to enter at the narrow gate, they will soon see whether the saved will be many or few. Our duty is clear. We are not to ask what other people are doing, and whether many of our neighbours, and relatives, and friends, are serving Christ. The unbelief and indecision of others will be no excuse for us. We must be up and doing, waiting for no one, putting our trust in our Lord.

A day is coming on the earth when the long-suffering of God towards sinners shall have an end. The door of mercy, which has been so long open, shall at last be shut. The fountain opened for all sin and uncleanness shall at last be closed. The throne of grace shall be removed, and the throne of judgement shall be set up in its place.

Men may see what is right when it is too late for them to be saved. There is a time coming when many will repent too late, and believe too late, - be sorry for sin too late, and begin to pray too late, - be anxious about salvation too late, and long for heaven too late. Many will wake up in another world, and be convinced of truths which on earth they refused to believe. Hell itself is nothing but truth known too late.

Questions

1. How does Jesus answer this man's question?
2. What is our duty?
3. When will it be too late to believe?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”
Luke 13:30

Praise: Psalm 133 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 13:31-35 - Our Times in His Hands

These verses should drive home to us the fact that our times are entirely in God's hands. Christ's time is not yet come for leaving the world. His work is not yet finished. Until that time comes it is not in the power of Herod to hurt Him. Until that work is finished no weapon forged against Him can prosper. Christians should have a calm, unshaken confidence about things to come - a heart quiet, steady, and trusting in the Lord. When we have done all we can, we should remember that though duties are ours, events are God's. We should try to leave things to come in God's hands and not to worry about health, or family, or money, or plans. How much more peaceful we would be! All the powers in the world cannot take away our life, until God says so. All the doctors on earth can't keep us alive, when God calls us away. The very hairs of our heads are numbered. Our steps are ordered by the Lord, and all things are working together for our good. There is no such thing as chance, luck, or accident, in the life of a believer. There is only one thing needed in order to make a believer calm, quiet, unruffled, and undisturbed in every circumstance. That is faith. Let us pray each day for this steady, constant faith.

These verses also teach the great compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ towards sinners. We need to thoroughly understand that if we die in our sins and go to hell, our blood will be upon our own heads. We can't blame God the Father, Jesus Christ the Redeemer, or the Holy Ghost the Comforter. The promises of the Gospel are wide, broad, and general. Christ is ready to save sinners. If we are lost, we shall have no one to find fault with but ourselves.

Questions

1. When will a Christian die?
2. How can we have a calm spirit about the future?
3. Who is to blame for unbelievers?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that our lives are in God's hands.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Luke 13:30

Praise: Psalm 134 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 14:1-6 - Watched

Our Lord Jesus Christ accepts the hospitality of those who are not His disciples, but He is the same there as He is elsewhere, always about His Father's business in a wise and calm manner. He always says the right thing, at the right time, and in the right way. He never forgets for a moment, who He is and where He is. He has left us a pattern for how we should deal with unbelievers.

We should not withdraw from all interaction with unbelievers. This would be cowardly and lazy, even if it were possible. It would shut us out from many opportunities of doing good. But we should spend time with them moderately, watchfully, and prayerfully, with a firm resolution to be about our Master's business. If we follow Christ's example, we will come to no harm.

Our Lord is watched by His enemies. They are waiting for Him to do something wrong. But they find nothing. Christians will also be watched by their enemies. One slip in word or deed, one inconsistency will not be forgotten. We should work to live lives that give no opportunity for unbelievers to attack or belittle Christianity. By the grace of God this can be done.

Questions

1. How did Christ deal with unbelievers?
2. How should we deal with unbelievers?
3. Why do people watch how Christians act so closely?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."
Luke 13:30

Praise: Psalm 135 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
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