

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

April 26, 2020

ARE YOU RIGHTEOUS WITHIN YOURSELF?

by Jim Stauffer

“And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt.” (Luke 18:9)

Jesus exposes self righteousness with this parable. He chose to teach in parables for a reason. Jesus called on men to follow Him. “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30) Yet He taught in parables. Parables that often needed some explanation for His listeners to understand. For instance He explained the parable of the sower and the parable of the tares to His disciples. His closest followers even asked Him why He taught in parables. His reply, “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;’ (Matthew 13:13–14)

Jesus possessed something we do not as He taught among men. He could read their hearts (Mat. 9:4). He therefore taught in parables and in other ways that made His message readily available to anyone who desired it. But notice in His invitation call, He said, Come unto me. He did not say I will come and take you regardless of your interest or lack thereof.

The man used as an example in this parable about the self righteous man was one of those whose ears were dull of hearing and had trouble seeing the message of the Lord. He disregarded the Lord’s message about one needing to be humble enough to accept relief from the Son of God Himself. He did so

because he was content within himself that he was righteous. This man was so proud of his own righteousness he did “good” deeds to be seen of men. “But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.” (Matthew 23:5)

But the great failure of men such as this one Jesus tells about is they do not understand righteousness in itself and therefore judge something righteous because it pleases their eye and their idea. Righteousness is perfect justice. One person possesses that, God Almighty. Paul tells the Romans He is, just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:26) And He grants such righteousness to mankind through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus (2 Cor. 5:21). Once a person reaches the point of this self righteous man, he will become dull of hearing and blind to the truth. He ceases to listen. He quits learning. He is no longer introspective to the point of seeing his own flaws. That man is in trouble as we see with the Pharisees and Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day. Men much like some men today. A kind of man we must avoid becoming.

Such men condemned Jesus for eating with publicans and sinners (Mark 2:15-17) immediately after He had healed a leper and a paralytic in their presence. You see, they had a preconceived idea of the Messiah. He should come and recognize them for their righteousness and hold them up as an example for all to see. They were unable to see the Divine Power Jesus possessed and submit to His leadership. What they did not realize was God came to earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth to both demonstrate and dole out righteousness. He demonstrated it in His life and gave it to all who would come unto me, in His death.

The most dangerous thing that can happen to us is

to become righteous within ourselves. Once that happens we will cease to listen to the Lord.

How about you? What is the basis for what you believe and how you worship? Is it something you are content with because it pleases you, or is it something the Lord is happy with because it is what He authorized you to do in order to receive the righteousness of God?

JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY: A PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR

“And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way” (Luke 4:28-30 NASV). Jesus’ manner of speaking and His message attracted great interest of those gathered in the synagogue in Nazareth; all eyes were upon Him. Most knew Him to be Joseph’s son; this could be incredulity; it could simply be an obvious recognition of someone they had seen growing up in the neighborhood. If they were expecting great words and deeds from this hometown boy, they would soon be disappointed; they were soon angry beyond words. What did Jesus say that so fanned their flames of rejection?

“And He said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” It seems clear that the folks at home expected great things from Him. This proverb says that if you are a doctor and you prescribe medicine for the sick, then when you get sick, you will take the same medicine. IF Jesus, as He claimed, was the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of Israel, then He would be expected to do great things right there, right then. His work in other places was well-known; now, the people say “Do something here.” He said, *“Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown.”* Jesus would be rejected by His own people; what He came to do was out of step with hometown expectations. This initial ire is repeated often in Luke’s narrative; especially are the leaders of the Jews singled out for their unbelief (**Luke 9:21-22; 11:2-53**).

Still, the reaction of the people in Nazareth didn’t mean that Jesus wasn’t a prophet sent from God; in fact, He was coming to them in the same spirit and manner of two well-known OT prophets, Elijah and Elisha. Jesus was not rejecting His own people; neither were Elijah and Elisha. But God worked through these OT prophets as He helped some needy outsiders. Why would God

help a widowed woman, a non-Jew? Why would God reach out to a non-Jew who had leprosy? Jesus, Elijah, and Elisha brought good news and healing to those *dreaded others*. Yes, unclean Gentiles, those with no status in Nazareth, were objects of God’s concern. Surely this would be welcome news to the folks in Nazareth. But, not so! The people were outraged. Forgetting that it was the Sabbath, a day on which work was forbidden, they sought to execute Jesus. They, as did their fathers, continued to reject the prophets.

The gospel of the kingdom, if we allow it to do so, will change the way in which we view the world. The gospel speaks to ultimate reality for this life and the one to come. Our prejudices, our pride, our attachments to the good life, our values, all of which are predicated on our perceived self-sufficiency, must give way to the call and openness of the gospel. The despised Sidonians and Syrians would accept Jesus. His hometown neighbors would not accept Him. Will you?

Randy Harshbarger

What Does Scripture Say?

If you ask 100 people what they think about the Kingdom you may rest assured you’ll get a hundred different answers. But if you’re not interested in what people THINK but about THE TRUTH, where would you go? There is only one place you can go for truth about spiritual matters: Scripture. Even Jesus himself pointed a hypocritical lawyer who was testing him to the scripture (Luke 10:25-28) and Jesus said the lawyer understood the scripture properly, so scripture can be rightly understood by anyone. So, what does Scripture tell us about the Kingdom?

First the scripture teaches us that the Kingdom was promised in the Old Testament. At the death of Christ we are introduced to Joseph of Arimathea with the phrase *“a counselor of honorable estate, who also himself was looking for the kingdom of God;”* (**Mark 15:43**). Why would he be doing that? Well, because God had been promising a kingdom at least since the days of Isaiah when He said in **Isaiah 2:2** *“And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.”* Daniel also said in **Daniel 2:44** *“And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”* These

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and other verses led the people of Jesus' day to be expecting a Kingdom. Even Jesus himself began his preaching with *"the kingdom of God is at hand"* in **Mark 1:15**. So, it was promised.

Cleveland Reddinger

Facts About Alcohol

by Wayne Goff

A Narcotic

1. It is the number one drug problem in this country.
2. It claims at least 100,000 lives every year, 25 times as many as illegal drugs combined.
3. No logical, rational thinking person can deny the destructive nature of alcohol.

Not Mentioned by Alcohol Industry

1. It is associated with most crimes.

- It is a factor in 70% of all murders.
- It is a factor in 50% of all rapes.
- It is a factor in 60% of all sexual crimes against children.
- It is a factor in 55% of all arrests.

2. It is a serious safety hazard.

- It is a factor in 66% of all fatal auto accidents.
- It is a factor in 53% of all fire deaths.
- It is a factor in 36% of pedestrian accidents.
- It is a factor in 22% of all home accidents.
- It is a factor in 45% of all drownings.

Is It Just the "Abuse" of Alcohol?

Some say, "I drink beer, not liquor"

1. I believe them. America consumed 6.3 billion gallons of beer last year.
2. 85.5% of all alcohol consumption was in beer in 2005.
3. But what's the benefit of that? What is positive about that?
 - 80% of drivers arrested for DWI were drinking only beer.
 - Someone in the US dies every 30 minutes in an alcohol related death (primarily from beer).
 - Alcohol related car crashes cost an estimated \$44 billion annually.
 - Someone in the U.S. dies every 50 minutes in an alcohol related death (primarily from beer).

There has never been an alcoholic who didn't take that first drink!

What Does This Say About Social Drinking?

Our government has tried in every way possible to legislate tobacco out of existence. But our government has not touched the alcohol problem which is many

times more deadly and costly to people than tobacco ever was or ever will be!

Moreover, our government has deemed that stores that sell alcohol and marijuana are "necessary"!

One explanation given was that too many people are addicted to these drugs and it would place an unnecessary hardship on those who are dealing with their addictions (***Newsweek, April 18, 2020***).

Another explanation given was that it falls under the "food and agricultural" category. "This category includes groceries, pharmacies, convenience stores, and other retailers that sell human food, animal or pet food, and beverage products. Restaurants with carryout or delivery service fall into this category as well. Liquor stores obviously sell beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. They often also sell snack foods. Many states allow convenience stores to sell alcohol. Mystery solved" (***Psychology Today, March 27, 2020***). The article went on to point out that the taxes gathered by local, state and federal agencies is significant. It also suggested that the long shadow of the 1920 Prohibition Act is a reason for the decision. Illegal alcohol and drugs can be a real headache for the government to deal with, as the remembrance of Al Capone and his gang is considered.

I'm also sure that the fact that many, if not most, of our government officials drink beer, wine, and liquor. So it's up to you to keep in mind the dangers of alcohol, and to share the facts to warn others!

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"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We all share in the mourning of Steve Wimp over the death of his sister, Carol Willard. She has been in failing health for some time but that does not negate the loss of a loved one. Please pray for Steve and his family and be available to help in this time of need.

Please pray for the nation and the world as the battle to overcome the dreaded Covid -19 virus continues. We pray we may soon congregate and worship together.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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RATLIFFE, DENESE GORING,
CHARLOTTE STAUFFER, RODNEY
BLOUNT, TRACY RICHARDSON
AND LEROY KURTZ.

OUR BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY
IS **SEARCHING FOR A KING -**
WITH RON PECK. (ZOOM)
WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - **THE**
BOOK OF MARK (ZOOM)
SUNDAY MORNING SERMON
ON YOUTUBE AND ZOOM
FAITH OF OUR FATHERS



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins

Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10