

Row. 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”

May 1, 2022

IF THEY DO NOT HEAR MOSES AND THE PROPHETS...

Jim Stauffer

*“But Abraham *said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ‘But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ ‘But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’” (Luke 16:29–31)*

The Lord teaches multiple principles for the life of a disciple in this text about the rich man and Lazarus. That which we have chosen for this article is one that is actually taught by the Lord and His apostles in other places in the Scripture. What Jesus is saying is the evidence is there, the information available through the teaching God has provided His people and no amount of demonstration of His power can force one who already has that information to accept it, believe it and obey it. The rich man has lived his life, as has his brothers with the same attention to God’s message as Jesus spoke of with Israel as He taught them. His disciples asked why He spoke in parables and He said, *“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; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.’” (Matthew 13:13–15)*

This has been the history of God’s people from the beginning. They learn the truth and are zealous for it, but

over time, they become more entangled in the affairs of the world and the interest wanes and attention to His instruction takes second place to life in the flesh.

When this happens men stop growing as they should (**Hebrews 5:12-14**), they fail to use their talents (Matthew 25:24-30), and they soon begin to fail in their responsibilities to both the Lord and their brethren (**Hebrews 10:23-25**).

The result is the difference between the 5 and 2 talent men and the 1 talent man. The former are working for the cause of the Lord in Whom they truly believe. The latter has chosen not to work for the Lord. The result is:

They fail to attend and stimulate and encourage brethren.

They fail to visit those who need encouragement or are ill and unable to assemble.

Their lack of growth prevents them from becoming teachers for Bible Classes.

They become so unreliable it is nearly impossible to prepare a duty roster for worship to include them. But most of all their influence on members of the congregation and even their own family members is negative rather than positive.

The writer of Hebrews follows **10:23-25** with these verses, *“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:26–29)*

But then a very similar message is contained in the Law of Moses for the rich man and his brothers and yet they disregarded it until one of them found himself in tartarus awaiting his final judgment and condemnation. Brethren the word we are setting aside (**Mark 7:9**) is the word of God's only Son, *...in Whom I am well pleased, Hear ye Him* (**Matthew 17:5**).

The Cursed of the Fig Tree

John Hines

Matthew and Mark record this incident with the latter including a detail that may be difficult to understand. *"And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs"* (**11:13**). He proceeded to curse the tree, and the following day the disciples found it dead, from the roots up. The backdrop of the miracle is the cleansing of the temple as Jesus came into Jerusalem. The fruitless tree is serving as a metaphor for what was happening in Judaism.

But still, if it wasn't the season for figs, why expect figs? Wouldn't that be an unreasonable expectation? Scholars and farmers offer a few different explanations.

- An early and latter fruit – Palestinian figs come on early and late, with the former being smaller. It is possible that the out-of-season-ness might be indicating that it was not the time of harvest, and Jesus therefore hoped to find some of the early fruits.
- Fruit and leaves together – Other scholars make the point that the leaves and fruit grow together on these specific trees. As this tree was in an ideal location to grow leaves, regardless of season, it should have been growing fruit as well. Jesus was hoping to find fruit upon seeing the leaves (**vs. 13**).
- Perhaps – Notice the word used in the verse and we will simply notice this; Jesus was hoping to find fruit. It may have just been the early fruits suggesting a bountiful harvest later on, but it was fruit. The leaves were promising, perhaps, but no fruit were to be found.

Jerusalem and the temple were like the fig tree. It looked good, but the looks were deceiving. The tree would be dried up from the roots up. The chief priests and scribes sought how they might destroy Jesus (**vs. 18**). Their lack of fruit of righteousness would lead to their own destruction, physically and spiritually. Let us

heed the warning and bear fruits worthy of repentance (**Matt. 3:8**).

TWO MEN ATTEND WORSHIP SERVICES

Bill Hall

Two men attend worship services. **The first man** attends wholly out of a sense of duty. He understands the teaching of Hebrews 10:25: *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*, and is determined to obey faithfully that teaching. He will not allow anything within his power to stand in the way of his attending the worship periods of the church.

The second man recognizes his duty in this matter too, but his primary motivation in attendance is his love for the Lord and his joy in blending his voice and heart with other Christians in praise and adoration to the Lord. He delights in worship and the spiritual strength he derives through worship.

The first man is mentally passive throughout the worship service. If the words of the song happen to catch his attention, he sings along with little concern for what he is singing. If the sermon is interesting, he listens, otherwise, he just relaxes, and hopes the time won't drag too badly. He does meditate briefly concerning Christ's suffering and death as he partakes of the supper, for somehow the importance of the memorial feast has been impressed upon his mind.

The second man comes mentally prepared to worship. He pays close attention to the words of each song and makes the sentiment of the song his own sentiment. In fact, he sometimes studies the words of frequently used songs so he will be sure he understands their meaning. Depth of meaning is of greater importance to him than a catchy tune or rhythmic beat. He listens to each phrase of the prayer that is led, and if he can approve the petitions of the prayer, he unites with the one who leads with his "Amen." He discerns the Lord's body as he breaks bread, and he listens carefully to the sermon, volunteering his attention, hiding the word in his heart that he might not sin against God (**Psalm 119:11**). If his mind wanders occasionally, he brings it back to the worship. He worships with a consciousness of God as the object of his worship, the One toward Whom these expressions of adoration are directed.

The first man reduces his service to a mere code of external rites, while the second man obeys *from the heart* combining the outward with the inward. The first man is more likely to be satisfied with his service to the Lord, for he has accepted the easier standard, but it is the second man who enjoys God's approval. *God is*

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Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

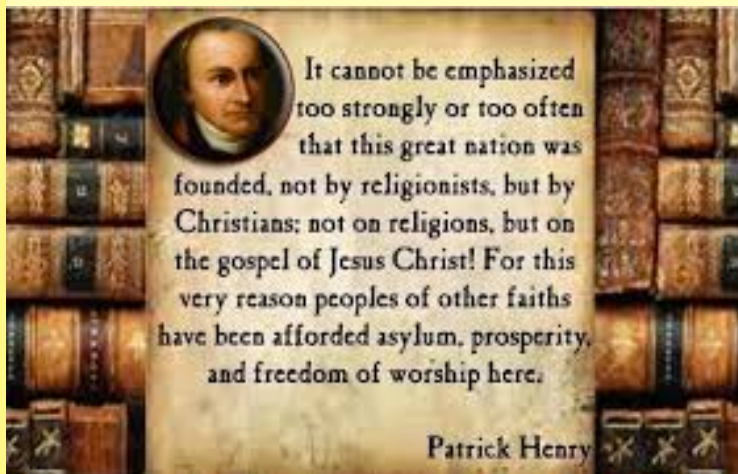
We ask the reader: "In which of these two men do you see a reflection of yourself?" The need is obvious! We must cast off our laziness and indifference, revitalize our spirits, and bring ourselves to worship God acceptably. There is a considerable difference between mere attendance of a worship service and truly acceptable worship.

Following is a daily journal with commentary on the lyrics of the hymn, Day By Day, No. 147 in Hymns For Worship.

This journal is provided for us by Caleb Anderson.

Day 2

"...Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment, I've no cause for worry or for fear." **Philippians 4:6** tells us not to be anxious of anything, but to take all to the Lord in prayer. **Psalm 91:4** reads, *"He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a buckler."* Trusting God can be very difficult. We cannot see Him, yet He is ever present. His Word and His Spirit are very much alive, and they work in the lives of His children. We know that He Who promised is faithful, so there is no need to have any worries or fears. Sometimes, the path He takes you down is rocky - it's not always smooth sailing; and that is intentional. He is teaching you to have faith and to trust Him. Remember the storm on the boat in the Sea of Galilee? He told His disciples to get on the boat to cross to the other side, and He was with them. When the storm came, the disciples lost faith and exclaimed, *"Save us, we are perishing,"* forgetting that Jesus, Himself said they were going to the other side. Not, "We're going to try to go to the other side," but, "we are going to the other side."



In times of sorrow, in times so fair;
In seasons glad, or dark despair;
No matter the hour or trouble shared,
Oh Lord, with, Thou are present there.
The hours of grief where ill betide,
Through shadows, dark, where dangers hide,
Whate'er becomes in a moment's time,
Oh Lord, with comfort be by my side.
When joy springs forth, away ills fade;
Through ever "uncertain" life brings by day,
The Lord, my strength, will lead the way.
When resting in his arms we find,
A hope supernal; a peace sublime.
We worry not, for we know in mind,
The Lord is the God of all mankind.

Caleb Anderson

Did you know this is taught in the Bible?

That man will not destroy this world because that is reserved for the power of God.

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,"

(2 Peter 3:10–11)

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

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

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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REVELATION - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS
GENESIS - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON:
GOD PROVIDES - WE OBEY



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