

WEEK TEN

The Hiding

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The Great Ploy of Satan

And all the while, it grew colder. On the night during evening roll call a platoon somewhere far down the Lagerstrasse began a rhythmic stamping. The sound few as others picked it up. The guards did not stop us and at last the entire street was marching in place, pounding tattered shoes against the frozen ground, driving circulation back into numb feet and legs. From now on this was the sound of roll call, the stamping of thousands of feet on the long dark street.

And as the cold increased, so did the special temptation of concentration-camp life: the temptation to think

only of oneself. It took a thousand cunning forms. I quickly discovered that when I maneuvered our way toward the middle of the roll-call formation we had a little protection from the wind.

I know this was self-centered: when Betsie and I stood in the center, someone else had to stand on the edge. How easy it was to give it other names! I was acting only for Betsie's sake. We were in an important ministry and must keep well. It was colder in Poland than in Holland; these Polish women probably were not feeling the chill the way we were.

Selfishness had a life of its own. As I watched

Mien's bag of yeast-compound disappear I began taking it from beneath the straw only after lights-out when others would not see and ask for some. Wasn't Betsie's health more important? (You see, God, she can do so much for them! Remember that house, after the war!) And even if it wasn't right - it wasn't so very wrong, was it? Not wrong like sadism and murder and the other monstrous evils we saw in Ravensbruck every day. Oh, this was the great ploy of Satan in that kingdom of his: to display such blatant evil that one could almost believe one's own secret sins didn't matter.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST:
JOURNEY TOWARD JERUSALEM

THE LAWYER WITH NO NEIGHBOR?

This text is often referred to as “The Parable of the Good Samaritan.” I would like to suggest that it could also be called “The Parable of the Bad Priest and Levite.” We might even call it “The Lawyer With No Neighbor.” He had neighbors. He just didn’t want any.

Some things never change and that’s the way it is with this lawyer. He is typical of many in the modern law profession. He knows the meaning but looks for a loophole. He searches for an excuse. He tries to entrap the witness. What he fails to realize is that this Witness is also the Judge!

The most obvious lesson is that of doing good without expectation of reward. As we dig deeper we find even more truth.

In this parable, Jesus uses the Samaritan as the classic good guy. This would certainly be offensive to the Jewish crowd that hated the Jews. However, this fanatical racism didn’t go just one way. The Samaritans were not too fond of Jews either. In fact, you should recall from last week’s reading of Luke 9:53 that the Samaritans had just rejected Jesus. This was after the woman at the well and many others had been saved in John 4.

Yet Jesus portrays the Samaritan as the one who does right when all others do wrong. He is an example of one who sticks out from among the crowd. He dared to be different: A great challenge for us all.

Meanwhile, the priest and the Levite were supposed to be agents of godliness.

Their problem: they were too busy. They had assignments and obligations. Perhaps they were afraid they would miss an appointment or become ceremonially unclean. They thought their time was best spent elsewhere. It wasn’t that they didn’t care - they just didn’t care enough. They would have been happy for someone else to help him. They just had too many other good things to do. They were being good rather than godly. Their paperwork and rituals were more important than a man in need. They were more focused on programs than people.

If you are so busy being good that you don’t have time to be godly, then you are too busy. Read James 2:14-18.

DAILY READING: Luke 10:25-42

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Week 10

Cities/Places

1. Why did the lawyer ask “Who is my neighbor?”
2. Why is it not good to try to justify ourselves?
3. Jesus said that the Levite and the priest passed by on the other side. The implication is that they avoided even coming near him. Why do you believe they did this?
4. In what ways can we be more like the Samaritan and less like the Priest and Levite?

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Using a Bible Dictionary, give a brief description of a priest and a Levite.

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God’s Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

TEACH US TO PRAY

This passage should seem familiar to you. In fact, several passages this week may give you a sense of *deja vu*. Many of the things Jesus will teach us this week are things He has taught us before. The model prayer was given in the Sermon on the Mount in Galilee in His early ministry. Now, at the request of a disciple Jesus teaches it again.

on a test. If he repeated it frequently, I had better know it for the final exam!

We don't know exactly how often Jesus gave this formula for prayer. We do know that the Holy Spirit has included it in the Scriptures twice: once at the beginning of His ministry and once at the end.

acknowledgement of our relationship with Him and His holiness. We should be anticipating His second coming and desiring His will here and now, rather than our will or simply His will in some future day. We should call upon Him to supply our daily needs. Daily and needs are key words.

First, let me note the value of repetition. Repetition is reinforcement. Seldom do we catch the full meaning of truth the first time around. Things that are important and valuable are often repeated. When I was in school, I learned that if the teacher repeated himself there was a good chance that it would be on a quiz. If he repeated himself more than once, I should expect it

While this is a wonderful prayer to have memorized let us realize that prayers are not like form letters oft repeated. He does not command us to prayer this prayer but to *pray in this manner*. See also Matthew 6:9.

A prayer should include the same elements as this model prayer. We should find an

We should seek forgiveness but not in a hypocritical fashion. If we want forgiveness we ought to be forgiving as well. We should seek His power in avoiding temptations and trial and His power to overcome evil.

For a more in depth study of the Lord's Model Prayer visit www.fremontbaptisttemple.com/loc.

DAILY READING: Luke 11:1-28

1. How does Jesus teach us the value of persistence in prayer?
2. How does Jesus compare our Heavenly Father with an earthly father?
3. Give some personal examples of answered prayer.
4. What are some things your are persistently praying for now?
5. How does Jesus describe those who do not gather with Him?
6. Who is blessed?



APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

POISON IN A CLEAN CUP

Jesus spared no words when rebuking the Pharisees. The confirmed unbelievers received harsh words from Christ while those who were learning and discerning, like Nicodemus, another Pharisee, found words of life.

The Pharisees were preoccupied with appearances. Their rituals were not done for God but for the audience of men. They wanted everyone to know how "pure" they were. But Jesus saw beyond the sparkle on the outside and described the poison within. They had clean hands and dirty hearts.

The Pharisees would have fallen in love with hand sanitizer in their day but I can't picture a Pharisee embracing a child in his

arms or kneeling in prayer with a needy leper. They were full of passion but empty on compassion.

No one had a greater opportunity to connect with God than these Pharisees. The object of their worship walked with them daily and they rejected Him. In the temple they praised Him but on the street they provoked Him. Why? Because they refused to receive His as the Messiah!

The Queen of Sheba spared no expense to hear the wisdom of Solomon with her own ears. Yet Jesus walked among them as One despised and rejected. Can you see her called as a witness on judgment day? Can you hear her testimony? What might she say to these once mighty men who

squandered such a great opportunity?

Do you recall the Ninevites? They repented at the preaching of a pathetic and reluctant preacher. Jonah didn't want to be there. His passion was not even for them. Yet they heeded his message and were filled with repentance. How much more righteous were the Ninevites than the leaders of the Israelites who would not be convinced when they saw God in the flesh and heard His voice with their own ears!

God gives you opportunities as well. Do you take full advantage of them? Do you take advantage of every opportunity to acknowledge Him? Are you clean outwardly but filthy within. Give God your best with a clean, praiseworthy heart.

DAILY READING: Luke 11:29-54

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Week 10

Cities/Places

1. What was the sign of Jonas?
2. Describe the Queen of Sheba's visit referred to here. It can be found in 1 Kings 10.
3. Why would the men of Nineveh and the Queen of Sheba rise in judgment against this generation?
4. How does the parable of the lighted candle apply to Christians?
5. Describe the hypocrisy of the scribes, Pharisees and lawyers.

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

ETERNAL INVESTEMENTS

Our text today is rich with the words of Christ. A great many folks gathered to listen to Jesus. The crowd is so large that Luke describes it as an innumerable multitude. Though many are listening, His initial words are apparently directed only towards His disciples.

Jesus speaks intentionally to those that are His, with the intention of making a point to those who are not. It is sort of like an open letter. These days someone will address a letter to an individual while publishing for all to read. For various reasons, they want the world to know what they have to say to this person. Here Jesus wants the world to know the call and the cost of being a disciple. He wants the world to know that God cares for those that are His. He puts the disciples on record this day, calling on them to confess Him publicly.

He speaks of being consistent and

courageous knowing that their Father above knows even the smallest details of their lives. He reminds them that if God knows the sparrow that falls He knows their every need down to the smallest details.

In the midst of this great discourse, we find a man concerned with temporal affairs. While Jesus is addressing spiritual warfare, this man wants Him to settle a personal financial dispute. While Jesus could have easily discerned who should get what, He did not get drawn into such a matter but persisted in reminding us that these things pass. Should the man gain his inheritance and more his soul could be required at any time and his riches would mean nothing.

Had this man heard the Sermon on the Mount or was this all new to him? Jesus expands His comments to instruct His disciples teaching them to be rich towards

God, trusting Him to meet their needs.

Puzzled Peter responds in essence, "Are you talking to them or to us?" Jesus doesn't even respond to the question. The answer, I believe could be summed up, "To him that hath ears to hear, let him hear." If you think its for you: its for you. If you don't think its for you: that's too bad.

The time is drawing near. His purpose is about to be accomplished. The flames of judgment are already being kindled. Christ is about to be immersed in a baptism unlike any other. He will be immersed in suffering and sin. Not any sin of His own be the sins of the world. But they could not see this. They did not yet understand.

How similar this is to our day. Jesus is coming again. I believe He is coming soon. Are you discerning of the times?

DAILY READING: Luke 12

1. What happens to that which is covered?
2. What happens to those who confess Jesus before men?
3. What do you think it would be like to hear Jesus brag on you to the Father?
4. Why were they to take no thought concerning how to respond to persecution?
5. Why do you believe Jesus refused to judge a temporal situation?
6. How can we be rich towards God?
7. What do your treasure and your heart have in common?
8. Do you believe Jesus is coming soon? Why or why not? If so, what should we be doing?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

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Week 10

Cities/Places

SINNERS AND SIN

It is always easier to judge others and compare ourselves with them. In order to justify ourselves we tend to find fault in others. People tend to minimize their personal sins by maximizing the sins of someone else. For some reason, they feel that they are okay so long as they can point out someone else whose sin is worse. This kind of justification usually begins with the phrase "Well at least I don't....". If you have to begin your defense with those words, you are in trouble. Though you may want to call others legalistic you sound quite a bit like the Pharisee of Luke 18: 11.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican."

Apparently, there were some present hoping to gain favor by pointing out how sinful certain Galilaeans must have been to have met such a terrible fate. Can you hear their accusation: "That had to be the judgment of God!"

Now imagine their chin dropping when Jesus replies that they are no better. Without repentance, they too are headed for hell! I can hear the gasps now. Some sour faced lady must have exclaimed, "Well, I never!" Her husband probably looked shocked on the outside but agreed on the inside.

Just in case someone missed it, Jesus said it again! Remember what we said about repetition earlier in the week.

Their problem was that they like to compare themselves with others, hoping to look good. Paul addresses this in 2 Corinthians 10:12b. "But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Although some sins are greater than others (John 19:11), all sin must be judged. It is not the quantity or quality of sin that condemns us but our qualification as sinners (Romans 3:23, 5:12, 6:23).

Rather than comparing ourselves to one another, we must compare ourselves to Christ and His Word. It is only then that we fully realize that we fall short and must come to Christ in repentance and receive His free gift of salvation.

DAILY READING: Luke 13:1-22

1. Who mingled the blood of Galilaeans with the sacrifice?
2. What phrase did Jesus repeat?
3. What happens to the fig tree that does not bear fruit?
4. How might this apply to Christians who do not bear fruit?
5. What did the woman do after Christ had done a work in her life?
6. How did the Pharisees respond in typical fashion?
7. Where was Jesus headed?

APPLICATION

What is the greatest truth you you have learned from God's Word today and how can you apply it to your life?

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Week 10

Cities/Places

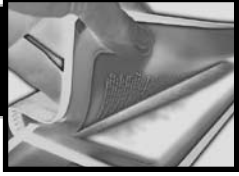


TABLE TALK



PASTOR'S MESSAGE