

Lesson 49 Forgiveness and Living in God's will

05/28/2011 MEETING: PRESENT – I AM, Bob and Cindy

Work on your blemishes. These are different from the three spots. I felt they aren't as bad.

Stay the course when doing the Lord's work. Finish the job.

Just like I said remove the plank from your eye before getting the speck from your neighbor's likewise remember your/the sins which you have been forgiven. This will help you forgive others. Examine your life, where you were in the past to where you are now. Examine your growth as mine (my child) to help you teach others and to help you be more empathetic, sympathetic, loving, forgiving, patience etc. I felt like He was saying the character of my leaders is important.

Work on your blemishes

When Bob and I were reviewing the words the Lord gave us this week one of the first things Bob said was blemishes are personal. Consequently, when you work on your blemishes you are going to be working on yourself. And the best way to get yourself right is to submit to the Lord and seek after His will for your life.

1 John 2:3

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

James 4:7-10

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Ephesians 5: 15-17

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Stay the course, finish the job

Of course once we start seeking after the Lord's will for us; we must stay the course, never veering from the path He has chosen for us. But the devil is going to always be trying to get you off course. He doesn't want you to finish that which the Lord has for you. Remember **James 4** from above: *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

Proverbs 14:14

The backslider in heart will be filled in his own ways.

Remember your sins which have been forgiven

The Lord spoke to us this week about remembering our sins as an aid to forgiving others. He reminded us of the parable concerning the plank. Therefore I believe this is a good set of verses to review.

Luke 6:37-42

“Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” And He spoke a parable to them: Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye, when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

I believe there are several points of interest in these verses. First, is the pairing together of judging and condemning. We have learned of righteous judgment from the THH website, web address: <http://www.takehisheart.com/judgingjudgment.htm>. In this article Roy explains making judgments based on God’s will. He quoted Jesus who stated in:

John 7:24

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

When the Lord was teaching Roy about judgment the Lord asked him a question:

If a man receives by the spirit of God, a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom, and it is revealed that there is a problem with another person, is that the judgment of the man or the judgment of God? The Lord then reminded Roy of Ezekiel.

God had been dealing with me (Roy) about Ezekiel and so my thoughts were this, "When Ezekiel spoke judgments to the people it wasn't his judgment but God's judgment through him." I understood this fact. The Lord knew my thoughts, He went on.

If this same man starts to see the same problem in those around him, is that the judgment of the man or the judgment of God?

The answer was obvious and a little later I asked the Lord, "Then, what is judging?"

His answer,

If a judge sitting on a bench does not have all the evidence and makes a judgment, he has "judged." If a judge sitting on a bench has all of the evidence and makes a judgment, he has made a sound decision and not a judgment.

What the Lord had told me made perfect sense and was simple. If you have all of the evidence you are not judging but making sound decisions.

You see the Lord has given us His law. He has taught us that sin is lawlessness. In other words He has taught us right from wrong; therefore, when we are placed in a situation requiring judgment we must make sure we have made sound decisions based on the teachings of our Lord as opposed to “judging” others. Remember, **Matthew 7:1** *Judge not that you be not judged.*

Jesus also told us to “**Condemn not**”. So let’s move on, the definition of the word condemn is: 1) to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation, 2) to pronounce guilty, convict, sentence, doom; 3) to adjudge unfit for use or consumption. We as man cannot declare a man’s fate. This is entirely up to the Lord. For us to presume this would be a sin as we would be claiming the authority of the Lord. This however does not prohibit us from making the aforementioned righteous judgments which requires knowledge of the Lord and his commandments.

We started speaking of all of this because the Lord had quoted from the bible verse above (Luke 6:37-42). He told us remembering that our sins have been forgiven by Him should help us forgive others. This reminded me of something The Lord said to me many years ago when I was being rather arrogant. He said, “**How can you not forgive them when I have forgiven you? Who do you think you are? Are you more important than me?**” This I believe leads to the second point of interest from the verses in Luke 6 removing the speck from your brother’s eye prior to removing the plank from your own. Just as we are aware of the Lord’s laws for making righteous judgment, we likewise are aware of using the Lord’s law to help us guide our path. **Psalm 25:4-5** *Show me Your ways, O lord; teach me Your path, lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.* How could we have the audacity to seek to remove the speck from our brother’s eye before using those same laws to first help us remove the plank from our own? **Ephesians 2:9-10** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* This forgiveness we have been given is one of the gifts given us by God through His grace not of works.

You see we are talking about living in God’s will. Living in His will to help us make us make the right decisions, living in His will to help us remove our blemishes, living in His will to help us be forgiving.

Psalm 40:8

“I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.”

The Lord said, **Examine your life, where you were in the past to where you are now. Examine your growth as mine (my child) to help you teach others and to help you be more empathetic, sympathetic, loving, forgiving, patience etc.**

Ephesians 5:8-10

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Our character is important. We are representatives of the Lord. We are to follow His example and be all that He would have us to be. May God Bless and Keep you in His path. Amen.

<http://www.takehisheart.com>