

I Connect Sunday School Lesson for 9/6/2020

Concerns and Praises

Prayer

[Luke 17:21 behold](#)

. . . behold, the kingdom of God is within you

Commentary

Luke 17:21

Christ Jesus describes God's kingdom repeatedly, often through similes (see Matthew, chap. 13, for instance). Here he explains where this divine kingdom is to be found. A commentary notes: "The kingdom of God works in men's hearts; it is to produce not new things, but new people. It is not a revolution in material things that we are to look for, but a revolution in the hearts of men."

[1 Chronicles 16:29; Isaiah 45:13 \(to :\), 22; 35:4–6, 8 \(to 1st ;\)](#)

8 Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

Comment: Importance of gratitude. How do we express it?

29 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways:

4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Comment: Easy to say. Have you had any experiences where your spiritual strength overcame your fear and resolved a challenge that you faced?

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

8And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness;

Commentary

Embedded in what is widely considered one of the most beautiful chapters in Hebrew Scripture, the highway image symbolizes the way home from captivity—not just for Jews in exile but for all seeking a return to the worship of God. This metaphor speaks of comfort to every heart seeking rest and redemption.

[Genesis 1:27, 31 \(to 1st .\)](#)

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.

Comment: Do we believe this? If so, do we see ourselves and others this way, even when the human picture is disturbing or upsetting?

[Ecclesiastes 7:29 \(to :\)](#)

29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright;

Commentary

Ecclesiastes 7:29

Upright, translated from the Hebrew word *yāšār*, means straight, right, righteous, or just. Jeremiah prophesies, “I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight [*yāšār*] way, wherein they shall not stumble” (Jeremiah 31:9). Deuteronomy 13:18 has, “Do that which is right [*yāšār*] in the eyes of the Lord thy God.”

[Ecclesiastes 3:11 \(to :\), 14](#)

11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time:

14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Comment: Do we believe this? Do we see it?

[Psalms 139:1, 14](#)

1 O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

[Psalms 29:2, 11](#)

2 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

11 The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

[Isaiah 43:21](#)

21 This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

Comment: How can we show forth our praise?

[Exodus 20:1, 3](#)

1 And God spake all these words, saying,

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Comment: What can other Gods be?

[Mark 12:29 The, 30](#)

29 The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

Comment: This does not leave room for any other thought!!!

[Jeremiah 31:3](#)

3 The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

[Psalms 22:19](#) *be*

19 *be* not thou far from me, O Lord: O my strength, haste thee to help me.

[II Kings 4:8–12, 16 \(to 1st .\), 18–21, 25–27 \(to 1st :\), 30, 32, 33, 35 and *the*, 36](#)

8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

Commentary

Although the Shunammite's name is not known, this account portrays a woman who overcomes the submissiveness expected of females with assertiveness born of faith. One scholar suggests, "The Shunammite's life is an example of victorious living. Her peculiar charm is her serenity in moments of trial, her firmness in affliction, . . . and her unselfish endurance, amid anxiety and anguish."

constrained: strongly encouraged

Comment: This is an appropriate story given the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote and current issues related to the perception of women.

9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.

16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son.

18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite:

26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet:

30 And the mother of the child said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.

32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

35 and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

[Hebrews 12:12–14](#) *lift*

12 lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

[Luke 17:20, 21](#)

20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

[Colossians 3:2,10, 12, 14](#)

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

10 ...put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

Closing

[Psalms 90:1, 16, 17 \(to :\)](#)

1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

16 Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

17 And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: