

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why was the one lost sheep important?
2. What motivated the father to accept his returning prodigal son?
3. Name some of the things that keep souls from following Christ?
4. What takes place in the heart and soul of man when he turns from his own way and follows Christ?

SUMMARY:

What a joy it is when a soul becomes reconciled to God! What a greater joy it is if we were a help to that particular person. To experience the spiritual rebirth of a soul is indeed the most joyous and gratifying of all our earthly experiences, as this does bring us into a closer contact and fellowship with our God. This is the spiritual, the eternal living soul within each person which has been given new life eternal, with the very Creator, Himself. May we go onward with diligence seeking those that are lost and bring them to the feet of Jesus our Redeemer.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #3

January 18, 2004

First Quarter

REPENTANCE BRINGS REJOICING

LESSON TEXT: *Luke 15:1-32*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

- I. THE LOST SHEEP.** Luke 15:1-7
 - A. The Seeking Savior. Luke 19:10
 - B. Lost Sheep. Jeremiah 50:6; Matthew 9:36
 - C. There is Joy in Service. Psalm 126:5-6; Luke 10:17
- II. THE LOST SILVER.** Luke 15:8-10
 - A. Diligence. 2 Peter 3:14
 - B. Heavenly Joy. Revelation 19:6
- III. THE LOST SON.** Luke 15:11-32
 - A. Self-will. Deuteronomy 1:43; Romans 2:5
 - B. Pleasure Seekers. Isaiah 47:8-9; 1 Timothy 5:6
 - C. Repentance. Jonah 3:6-9; Luke 13:3
 - D. Confession of Sin. Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9
 - E. Forsaking Sin. Isaiah 55:7; Hebrews 12:1
 - F. Robe of Righteousness. Isaiah 61:10; Revelation 7:9

GOLDEN TEXT: JOY SHALL BE IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH, MORE THAN OVER NINETY AND NINE JUST PERSONS, WHICH NEED NO REPENTANCE. Luke 15:7

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 16:1-13

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Malachi 3:7-12;
2 Corinthians 9:5-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of Man

TOPIC: STEWARDSHIP

INTRODUCTION:

People who are entrusted with using some firm's or some individual's money must be conscious of the fact that they must do so with discretion. They must not only be honest in their dealings, but they must be careful to use it so that the result is the greatest benefit possible.

In the same way our own money is only given to us by a merciful Father to be used for the necessities of life. We are not to waste it or abuse the use of it. All we do with it should be done to honor and glorify Him.

But much more important than the gift of money is the fact that the gospel has also been given to us, and in like manner we should use it to bring glorious results. We are to lead others to Christ. The use of money is only temporal, while witnessing for Christ is eternal. If our money fails us we still have the hope of the gospel to cling to. That is an everlasting possession.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Believers are stewards under God of all their possessions and abilities.

GOLDEN TEXT: NO SERVANT CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS: FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER; OR ELSE HE WILL HOLD TO THE ONE, AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YE CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON.

Luke 16:13

What is one to do when blessed by God so that his possessions multiply? Jesus teaches that we cannot serve God and mammon. But the lesson taught by this parable gives us a key to pleasing God even in prosperous times. How much better if instead of trying to serve God and mammon, we should serve God with mammon. Or instead of serving self with God's gifts entrusted to us, we should serve others. How hard to understand and yet how simple is the parable of the dishonest steward. Jesus is teaching us that as men are careful to provide for themselves in this life, how much wiser it is to provide for eternity.

Take my silver and my gold,
Naught Thy service I withhold;
Take mine intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Z.H. 324:5

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 19 - 25

M. The Blessed Man. Psalm 1:1-6

T. The Fortunate Man. Psalm 2:1-12

W. The Protected Man. Psalm 3:1-8

T. Giving God His Due. Malachi 3:7-12

F. *The Shrewd Steward. Luke 16:1-8

S. *Using Money Properly. Luke 16:9-17

S. Giving Generously. 1 Corinthians 9:5-15