

ST. BARNABAS EIGHTH SUN. MAR. 3, 2019 LUKE 6:39-45

THE REASON FOR THESE SHORT PARABLES IS BECAUSE JESUS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONFRONTED BY THE PHARISEES SO HE USES THAT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES AND BRING THEM TO A POINT OF DECISION AND ALSO REACH THE PEOPLE WITH THE WITH THE TRUTH OF WHO HE WAS.

THE PHARISEES HAD THE WORD OF GOD BUT DENIED THE TRUTH ,,,THEY ADDED TO THE TRUTH, THUS CREATED ERROR AND FALSELY LED THE PEOPLE AS BLIND GUIDES INTO A SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. IN MATH. 23: 16,,, JESUS REFERRED TO THE PHARISEES BY SAYING,,, “**THEY ARE BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND.. AND IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND,, BOTH WILL FALL INTO THE DITCH.**” ST. LUKE EXPANDS ON THAT AND SAYS ,, CAN A BLIND PERSON GUIDE A BLID PERSON? WILL NOT BOTH FALL INTO A PIT? FALLING INTO A **PIT**,,,MEANS A DEEP WELL..

THE POINT JESUS IS MAKING,,, WHO ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW,,, MEN OR JESUS. JESUS IS ASKING,,, ARE YOU GOING TO FOLOW THE PHARISEES OR THE MESSIAH.. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WHO YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW. TO MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE CHOSEN TO FOLLOW MEN IN THE PAST,, THEY GET SO CAUGHT UP WITH THE CHARISM AND PERSONALITY OF A TEACHER,,, OR A PASTOR,,, A TV PERSONALITY,, THEY TAKE ON SOME THEIR CHARACTERISTICS RATHER THAN THOSE OF JESUS. THEN WHEN THAT INDIVIDUAL FALLS,, OR HIS TEACHING PROVES FALSE,,,SO DO THE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAITH,,, AND THEY SO EASILY BECOME DISILLUSIONED AND QUESTION GOD,,, BUT IT’S NOT GOD’S FAULT ,, THE PEOPLE DIDN’T HAVE THEIR EYES OR HEARTS FIXED ON THE LORD IN THE FIRST PLACE,,,THEY WERE ON A MAN.

WE,, YOU,,I,, ARE TO FOLLOW JESUS,,, KNOW JESUS AS HIS DISCIPLES. ITS A MUST THAT WE READ AND STUDY HIS WORD THE BIBLE,,, SO THAT YOU CAN KNOW TRUTH FROM ERROR,, SO THE H.S. CAN WARN YOU FROM WITHIN,, THAT WHAT YOU HEAR OR SEE,, IS EITHER RIGHT OR WRONG,,,, TRUTH OR ERROR.. WE ARE NOT DISCIPLES OF HISTORICAL FIGURES,, NOT DISCIPLES OF A CHURCH,, BUT DISCIPLES OF CHRIST JESUS,,, WHO HAS REDEEMED US BY HIS BLOOD,,, THAT HAS CALLED US INTO A CHURCH,,,,, TO WORSHIP HIM..

I LOVE HOW SCRIPTURE ALWAYS FLOWS TOGETHER IN HARMONY. ST. PAUL WROTE IN ROM. 8:29,, FOR THOSE GOD CALLED THEY ARE TO BE CONFORMED,,, TO FOLLOW,, ADHERE TO,,, BE CONSISTENT TO THE LIKENESS OF HIS SON. LET ME ADD SOME DEFFINITION TO THAT.

THAT JUST FITS PERFECTLY WITH WHAT JESUS SAYS IN HIS STATEMENT. “NO DISCIPLE IS SUPERIOR TO THE TEACHER,, BUT WHEN FULLY TRAINED,, EVERY DISCIPLE,,, WILL BE LIKE HIS TEACHER. WILL BE LIKE HIS TEACHER. THE DISCIPLES WALKED,, TALKED AND SLEPT DAY AND NIGHT WITH JESUS FOR THREE YEARS. THEY HEARD AND LISTENED TO ALL THAT HE TAUGHT AND WATCHED WHAT HE DID. THEY WERE SLOW LEARNERS AT TIMES,, BUT MORE IMPORTANT THEY TOOK ON THE QUALITIES AND LIKENESS OF JESUS LIFE STYLE. THEY BECAME LIKE THEIR TEACHER. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON THEM AT PENTECOST,,, THEN **THE FULLNESS** OF ALL THEY HAD BEEN TAUGHT,,, AND THE LIKENESS ALL CAME TO COMPLETION AND JESUS WAS SEEN IN THE LIVES OF THE DISCIPLES,,, SO MUCH SO THAT WHEN PETER’S SHADOW FEEL ON SICK PEOPLE THEY WERE

HEALED. IN ADDITION,, THE LORD HAD PROMISED THEM IN THE GOSPEL OF JH. ,,,, THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD GUIDE THEM INTO ALL TRUTH,, AND GIVE THEM WORDS TO SAY. AS A RESULT THE DISCIPLES PREACHED THE GOSPLE,,, STARTED CHURCHES AND WE HAVE THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD IN OUR HANDS TO LEARN FROM.

AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS TODAY,,,IT IS JUST IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL GET TO KNOW HIM,,, AND THAT IS THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES THAT WE DO SO. READ THE GOSPELS,,, HEAR HIM SPEAK TO YOU,, WALK WITH HIM ALONG THE ROADS OF ISRAEL ,, PICTURE IT IN YOUR MINDS,,, THE CROWDS OF PEOPLE AND SIT BY HIS SIDE . WE ALL ARE CALLED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE LIKENESS OF OUR TEACHER THE LORD JESUS.

JESUS CONTINUED TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES AND US AND HE GETS RATHER PERSONAL. HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE SPLINTER IN A BROTHERS EYE ,, OR ASK ABOUT TAKING IT OUT,,, BUT NOT NOTICE THE WOODEN BEAM IN OUR OWN EYE. YOU HYPOCRITE,,, YOU PRETENDER. GET RID OF YOUR OWN BEAM THEN YOU CAN BE HELPFUL FOR YOUR BROTHER.

SO MANY TIMES WE QUICKLY LOOK DOWN AT OTHERS AND PICK AND POINT AT THEIR SIN,,, AND TALK ABOUT IT BECAUSE IT MAKES US FEEL SUPERIOR ,, LIKE THE PHARISEE,,, THANK GOD I AM NOT LIKE THAT PUBLICAN OVER THERE,,,,, JESUS SAYS HA,, GET THAT 6X6 TIMBER OUT OF YOUR OWN EYE FIRST.

WE MUST ALWAYS ASK,, OR ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SHOW US WHAT AREAS OF OUR LIFE OUR HEART,, THAT WE HAVE NOT YET RELEASED TO THE LORD,,, WHAT SIN OR HABIT THAT WE ARE STILL

HANGING ONTO THAT,, NEEDS TO BE CONFESSED AND SURRENDERED TO JESUS AS LORD,,, SO THAT WE CAN BE SET FREE TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS IN CHARACTER ,,WORD AND DEED.

THE WONDERFUL RESULTS OF DEALING WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF OUR OWN SINFULNESS AND FAULTS,,,, IS RECEIVING THE GRACE AND WHOLENESS OF CHRIST JESUS,,, AN THEN WE BECOME MORE COMPASSIONATE AND UNDERSTANDING TOWARDS OTHERS AND FORGIVING.

JESUS BRINGS TO A CLOSE HIS TEACHING BY TALKING ABOUT A FRUITFUL LIFE,,,,EITHER GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT,,, THAT FLOWS OUT FROM THE STORED UP TREASURE WITHIN OUR HEARTS. JESUS DEFINES THAT FULLNESS OR THE CONTENT OF A PERSONS HEART,,, BY SAYING IT IS REVEALED BY WHAT COMES OUT OF THEIR MOUTH,,,,, NOT BY WHAT THEY DO. FOR FROM THE FULLNESS OF THE HEART THE MOUTH SPEAKS. SO HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF TREASURE IS IN YOUR HEART? WHAT IS THE TREASURES IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S HEART? SIMPLE ANSWER,, WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THING TALKED ABOUT.

DO YOU TALK ABOUT THE THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU,, BLESSED YOU WITH,, HIS LOVE,, GRACE AND MERCY,,, THINGS IN SCRIPTURE,,,,, OR IS YOUR CONVERSATION CONSUMED WTH SPORTS,, POSSESSIONS,, THE NEWS,, GOSSIP,,, IS IT ABOUT YOURSELF,,PASSIONS AND DESIRES,,, BITTERNESS,, WHAT IS YOUR TREASURE. IN JAMES 1:26 IT SAYS,,,"IF ANYONE CONSIDERS HIMSELF RELIGIOUS AND YET DOES NOT KEEP A TIGHT REIN ON HIS TONGUE,, HE DECEIVES HIMSELF AND HIS RELIGION IS IN VAIN."

THIS ALL COMES BACK TO ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO REVEAL THE WRONG PRIORITIES IN LIFE,,, WHICH IS GOOD. SINFUL HABITS THAT PRODUCE ROTTEN FRUIT,,, SHOULD CAUSE US TO SEEK FORGIVENESS,, WHICH SETS US FREE FROM THE POWER OF SIN,,, TO LIVE IN THE FULLNESS OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRISIT,,, WHICH ENABLES US TO PRODUCES GOOD FRUIT,,, THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD,,, SO THAT OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF OUR HEARTS,, THE TREASURE,,, THAT OVERFLOWS FROM OUR MOUTH,,, WE WILL BRING GLORY TO GOD AND BECOME A BLESSING TO THE LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE. +++AMEN