

Fishers of men by God's grace and for His glory

Introduction

Below are brief introductions to our lessons this week for each adult class.

Adult Topical Class (Bible Studies for Life – Mentoring: Investing in Others)

Teachers: Craig Pleasants & Bob Kemble

Lesson Title: Jethro and Moses

Focal Scripture: Exodus 18:9-11,14-21

Theme: Be ready to give and receive godly wisdom.

Quarter Overview: Our initial six lessons draw upon assorted mentoring relationships in scripture which teach us how we can mentor others in the faith, while learning how to walk wisely and in step with Christ. The next six lessons focus on the significance and beauty of holiness, and how we can live unashamed and grow to be more like Christ. We close out this quarter with a single lesson on the wisdom of Abigail, which is intended to show us how God wants to use us to intervene in the lives of those on a foolish or destructive path.

Lesson Overview: Our lesson for this week examines the mentoring relationship between Jethro and his son-in-law Moses, from which we can draw some profitable truths about mentoring. From the start, Jethro acknowledged the greatness of God (9-11). He then used observations and questions to lead Moses to understand the problem of over-extending himself by trying to judge or mediate every matter among the host of Israelites (14-18). Then he provided guidance on how Moses could address the situation by enlisting able God-fearing men to assist him (19-21). Mentoring with grace and a Christ-centered attitude can be a great source of help and encouragement. Mentors should lead others to live God honoring lives. Those being mentored must model a humble and teachable spirit, open to learning and improving. Pray that God would lay on your heart someone you can learn from or someone you can help.

²⁴So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law (he listened to and heeded his advice), and did all that he had said. Exodus 18:24

Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – Jeremiah; Lamentations)

Teachers: Janice Willis & Thomas Littleton

Lesson Title: Prepares

Focal Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-19

Theme: God prepares His people to represent Him in this world.

Quarter Overview: This quarter we will study the Old Testament books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. Jeremiah prophesied to the people of Judah just prior to God allowing the Babylonian conquest of their nation, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the exile to Babylon. While the message was primarily a warning to repent from their sinful and idolatrous ways or face God's imminent judgement, it also offers a word of hope as God would one day bring restoration to His people. Lamentations contains five poems of lament describing the suffering experienced with the fall of Jerusalem. Throughout this quarter we will reflect on how God desires our whole-hearted devotion, the seriousness of sin, and how we can seek God's forgiveness.

Lesson Overview: This week's lesson deals with God calling Jeremiah to prophesy to His people in a turbulent time of judgement. In His wisdom, God always prepares and chooses the right person for the job. In Jeremiah's case, this occurred even before he was born (4-5). God reassured an unconfident Jeremiah by telling him that He would direct where he should go, what he should say, and provide His presence and protection every step of the way. God creates people with a purpose to be fulfilled and promises His presence when believers faithfully heed His calling. As Christ's church, it is our duty and privilege to warn people of God's judgement upon sin and endeavor to make disciples of all nations (Acts 1:8). May God provide us the wisdom and courage to perform the jobs to which we are called, and properly represent Him to the world; by God's grace and for His glory.

⁴³To him (Jesus) give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission (forgiveness) of sins. Acts 10:43

Closing Thoughts

Most of you can probably relate to the unending cycles of charging your cell phone battery. My phone recently degraded to the point I had to get a new battery for it, which brought it back to an acceptable frequency of charging. Our spiritual lives are somewhat similar. Periodically we need spiritual renewal or revival. When we turn back to Him, God can supply new hearts and revive His people. May He give each of us a fresh fill of His love, renew a right spirit within us (Psalm 51:10), and recharge us in His service.

⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration (rebirth), and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Titus 3:5

¹⁹Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; Acts 3:19

²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:23-24

¹⁶For which cause we faint not (don't lose heart or give up); but though our outward man (physical body) perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

Please prayerfully consider meeting with us this week for 10:00 am Sunday School as we fellowship, encourage, and study God's word together.