Bible Study 73

April 19th, 2023

 St Luke’s Gospel (Continued)

Chapter 17.

Chapter 17 begins with  a discussion on ‘sin and forgiveness’. Jesus teaches his disciples that sin and repentance go together but what is unforgiveable is those who lead children into sin. He gives the example that it be better ‘if they were thrown into the ocean with a millstone tied around their neck.’

How many times can we sin and be forgiven ? Seems to be a question . v.4

Again, on Faith Jesus gives the example of the Mustard Seed. Jesus talks about obligation and duty. “What do we owe to God?”—Surely that we do the right thing, because it is right without looking for reward.

In v. 11 Jesus meets Ten Lepers in Samaria.  They shout: “Jesus Lord, have mercy on us.”   --What is strange about this?  Why does Jesus tell them to go show themselves to the priest?  It is the story of the Ten lepers who are cleansed.

Luke is a physician so we are used to his healing stories with their detail in the Gospel. One leper turns back. In this case the ten stay at the required distance under the law. Second, they cannot enter the village. Third they need the approval of the priest in order to prove they are cured. Note the returning grateful leper is a Samaritan?  What is Luke saying here?

Jesus asks: “Were not Ten cured?”  he calls the Samaritan a foreigner. Again, it is FAITH that saves.

Verse 20 begins a consideration of the “Kingdom of God” in a dialogue between the Pharisees and Jesus.  “The Kingdom of God is within you!”-----Jesus asks his disciples to cherish these days of  ‘The Son of Man’ because he knows he will not be with them forever.—Warning against false prophets and false messiahs I think that this is an inclusion more in Luke’s time warning of those claiming to be Jesus through his Second Coming.

The comparison between Noah, the Ark and the Flood encompasses a teaching about the “Day of the Lord” or the Second Coming of Jesus. It will be sudden and unexpected and at a time when most have fallen away from God.  Luke calls it “The Day of the Son of Man”.  Is Luke talking about the persecution of the Christians by the Romans or the end of the world?

Chapter 18.

The Parable of the ‘Unjust Judge’.

God is not the unjust judge rather he is a loving father who will answer the prayers of his people.

Read 17 & 18.