

Life Group Notes 3/27/2022
Pastor Mark Life of Jesus Part 9

Scribe's appeal: I continue to produce these notes weekly during the interim period between Life Group sessions as a study guide to compliment and develop the principles presented weekly from the Word of God. Unlike any other human endeavor, there is a reward beyond measure in studying the Word of God, and no other way to get to know Him. If these notes are useful to you, and you've enjoyed them, please send me an email at tbeachhead@comcast.net. If they raise any questions or if you get inspired, share this with me...and we can encourage each other! –Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER What do you miss most when a life group session ends and you're on break? What is the most important event to happen this last week?

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Pastor Mark's message from this Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Mark says, "We are in for some tough times." **What does that make you think?** He adds, "It is time for us to get more into God's Word." **How many purposes will that serve? What do we need most right now?** Jesus said, "In this world you shall have troubles." **Why would He say such a thing? What does that make you think?**

Is there a right way to pray? What is required? Luke 11: 1 One day in a place where Jesus had just finished praying, one of His disciples requested, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ***Answer this: Why would they have asked Jesus such a question? What had they already seen? How often? What results from prayer had they known?***

2 So Jesus told them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, hallowed be Your name. ***What is included in this first step? What does it mean to be "Hallowed?"***

Your kingdom come. ***What does the answer to this prayer look like? Do you expect God to answer, so it looks like that? When will this happen? Why not today? Why not at this moment? What is missing from Luke's version to this prayer? Can His kingdom come without His will being done? Who's will is done when His kingdom comes? Whom do you obey throughout the day when His kingdom comes? Are you ready for Him to answer this prayer? Pray it again, then!***

3 Give us each day our daily bread. ***What are we not praying for? What does our daily bread include? What is bread? Why is "our daily bread" all we need? Whose job is tomorrow's worries?***

4 And forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. ***What happens if we do not forgive first? What is included in forgiveness? Is there anything that is not included?***

And lead us not into temptation.'" ***What does an answer to this prayer look like? How are you "lead into temptation?" Who puts the stumbling block there? How many ways out of temptation can you list?***

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you goes to his friend at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine has come to me on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.'

7 And suppose the one inside answers, 'Do not bother me. My door is already shut, and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.'

8 I tell you, even though he will not get up to provide for him because of his friendship, yet because of the man's persistence, he will get up and give him as much as he needs. ***What are the odds that the prayer will not be answered? What is required for an answer to prayer? How can we pray with confidence? Do you remember the parable of the widow and the unjust judge? How did she win her case?*** (We'll discuss this in chapter 18...but see how the principle does not change!)

9 So I tell you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ***What is required for an answer to prayer? How can we pray with confidence?***

11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, ***how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*** ***Take a moment: Answer each of Jesus' questions. What is required for an answer to prayer? How can we pray with confidence? How important is it to know God, and to trust that He will answer? Go back to the first line in the Lord's prayer? What***

do you know about the Father to whom you're addressing your petitions? Good things? Or scorpions?

Why does persistent, almost nagging prayer tug on the heart of God? Think of Mark's example of the father whose child sees the ice cream truck? What is the longest time you've been praying for something? Did you stop praying? Or are you praying still? How does this encourage you to pray??

14 One day Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. And when the demon was gone, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowds were amazed, 15 but some of them said, "It is by Beelzebul (*See notes below.*), the prince of the demons, that He drives out demons." 16 And others tested Him by demanding a sign from heaven.

17 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and a house divided against a house will fall. 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? After all, you say that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. 19 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **What is Jesus saying here? How is this a warning against a divided household, husbands and wives? A divided township? A divided church? A divided nation? How does this notion change our priorities today? Have you ever had to deal with demons? Do you have a testimony? Did you notice that Jesus was not the only one to drive out demons? Answer His question? By whose authority did the sons of the scribes and Pharisees drive out demons? How common was it to drive out demons? Why is it not common today? Whose authority is magnified when demons flee? Remember what Jesus said when the seventy returned? Who is driven from the land when the Kingdom of God advances?**

21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his house, his possessions are secure. 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted, and then he divides up his plunder. **What steps are involved in deliverance?**

23 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. **Now answer again this first question: What is required for an answer to prayer? How can we pray with confidence?**

24 When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' 25 On its return, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and dwell there. And the final plight of that man is worse than the first." **What dangers are involved in the deliverance ministry? What happens when you cast out a demon? Does the demon stop being evil? How can we pray with confidence? Why is it absolutely essential to be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we come to say to our enemy, "Sorry, There is no room for you here?"**

Talk about this: When Mark says, "When you're facing temptation, and you left the door open, what is the near and present danger?" What is Jesus' warning, then?

Can a Christian be possessed of a demon? Do you know the answer? Is it worth arguing over? Can a Christian or a Christian household be oppressed and attacked by a demon? Practically speaking, is there a difference, when the devil is actively seeking to disrupt our

lives? How do we deal? Look up 2 Corinthians 12:7. What was assaulting Paul? How did Paul deal with an attack? How many times did He pray? Why three? What happened the third time he prayed? Who spoke to him directly? Did His answer strengthen Paul against the demonic oppression that beset him? (Look back above, at the notes on prayers. How must we pray? Why is humility a weapon?)

Go back and look again above at verse 13. Answer Jesus question now: How much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him? How essential is He to your maintained deliverance? How important is it for YOU to ask Him? How will you know when you have Him? How much "more" is "more"?

Pastor Marks says, "He wants you to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I guarantee it, if you try to live your life devoid of the Holy Spirit, you will not be able to live your life to the fulness to which God is calling you." ***What does this tell you?***

27As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and blessed are the breasts that nursed You!"

28But He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." ***What is the only priority for blessing? How do you hear the Word of God? Who's speaking when you are hearing? Was Mary blessed, according to this passage? Who can be even more blessed?***

29As the crowds were increasing, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It demands a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. ***30***For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so the Son of Man will be a sign to this generation. ***What was the sign of Jonah? How was Jesus the sign? What happened in Nineveh after Jonah was released from the belly of the whale? What happened in the world, after Jesus was released from the belly of the earth? They asked for a sign. Did they receive one? Did they repent? Who benefitted most when they did not repent?***

31The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and now One greater than Solomon is here. ***32***The men of Nineveh will stand at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now One greater than Jonah is here. ***How do the men of Nineveh figure into this message? What was their response to Jonah?***

33No one lights a lamp and puts it in a cellar or under a basket. Instead, he sets it on a stand, so those who enter can see the light. ***Why don't they ever do that? How important is light? What benefits most from light?***

34Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body is full of darkness. ***What does a good eye see? What does a bad eye see? How important is your eye? Can your eye allow things in that your mind would be better off not seeing? How easily is that trap laid? Is there a solution that works? Do you have a testimony to help others?*** ***35***Be careful, then, that the light within you is not darkness. ***36***So if your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, you will be radiant, as though a lamp were shining on you." ***What hope does this promise bring? How can we make it happen? How can we encourage each other in this? Why is this a vital goal in this day?***

37As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to dine with him; so He went in and reclined at the table. 38But the Pharisee was surprised to see that Jesus did not first wash before the meal. **Who criticized whom first? Who is the "fault finder"?**

39"Now then," said the Lord, "you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. 40You fools! Did not the One who made the outside make the inside as well? 41But give as alms the things that are within you, and you will see that everything is clean for you. **How do you do that? What do you give?**

42Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint, rue, and every herb, but you disregard justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without neglecting the former. **Which comes first? Tithes or kindness? Which, according to Jesus, is OK to neglect? Why neglect either? Think of Mark's example: You're given a thousand dollars, and one hundred is asked in return? Is that easy or hard? What makes it difficult?**

43Woe to you Pharisees! You love the chief seats in the synagogues and the greetings in the marketplaces. 44Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without even noticing." **Do the Pharisees get what they are seeking? What do they gain from the praises of others? What should they be seeking?**

45One of the experts in the law (See note below) told Him, "Teacher, when You say these things, You insult us as well." **What are the hearers feeling right now? How is this dangerous for Jesus?**

46"Woe to you as well, experts in the law!" He replied. "You weigh men down with heavy burdens, but you yourselves will not lift a finger to lighten their load. **Where is this actually happening before our very eyes today? What does this say of this day and season? What days are we living in?**

47Woe to you! You build tombs for the prophets, but it was your fathers who killed them. 48So you are witnesses consenting to the deeds of your fathers: They killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. 49Because of this, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles; some of them they will kill and others they will persecute.'

50As a result, this generation will be charged with the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, 51from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, all of it will be charged to this generation. **How does this work? How sobering is this indictment? What is this generation guilty of? Which is worse? Shed blood? Or willing ignorance?**

52Woe to you experts in the law! For you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering." **How have teachers "taken away the key to knowledge?" What have they actually done to accomplish this? What is the teacher's sole purpose? If you become more gifted than the teacher by your learning, is the teacher diminished? Why not? Why have teachers "taken away the key to knowledge?" What is the purpose of learning?**

53As Jesus went on from there, the scribes and Pharisees began to oppose Him bitterly and to ply Him with questions about many things, 54waiting to catch Him in something He might say. **What is the fruit of jealousy?**

Scribe's historical notes: "*Beelzebul*" is transliterated from the Greek word "*Beelzeboul*," which in turn is translated from the Hebrew name "*Ba'alzebub*," which means the Lord of the flies, or the Fly-god, demons being like so many flies. This was a god of the Phoenicians, and the cult's practices cannot be transcribed here. It is one of Satan's names and titles.

A scribe was hired for his knowledge of the law, and for his ability to read and write. He would be the one to notarize contracts and binding covenants. Scribes, like lawyers today, were known for writing laws for their own benefit.