

SHINE Devotional

Week 36 – Lesson 1



Forgiveness

Scripture reading Luke 23:34-35

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.”

We learned many lessons from the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Lord suffered, Jesus said He wanted us to remember what He did. We partake of the Lord’s Supper so that we can remember that Jesus died for us. What are some of the lessons we can learn from His death on the cross? The first lesson we can learn is forgiveness.

Jesus was on the cross. He had been treated terribly. He was beaten, spat upon, and His beard was ripped from His face. He had been mocked and then cruelly hung on a cross. Nails were driven through His hands and feet. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Yet, the first words that came from the Lord Jesus on the cross are recorded in our Scripture were not a cry to God for vengeance. He did not ask God to destroy His offenders. Instead He prayed to God the Father to forgive them and said *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”* (Luke 23:24). This past week, we have been studying the conversion of Cornelius. Cornelius was a Roman Centurion, much like the Roman Centurion that stood at the foot of Jesus’ cross. Yet, the Bible tells us that Cornelius wanted to get saved. Jesus was there to save him. The Spirit of God heard him as an answer to the Lord’s prayer on the cross. *“Father, forgive them.”*

Forgiveness is an essential virtue for every believer. You and I must have a spirit of forgiveness if we are to reflect the life of Jesus Christ to those that are around us. Everyone will see God’s love in us when we forgive. No one will see the love of God in us if we refuse to forgive those who have hurt us. Jesus cried, *“Father forgive them.”* Do you? When you and I learn to forgive others, then God will SHINE through us and we can be the light God wants us to be.

SHINE Devotional

Week 36 – Lesson 2

Fellowship



Scripture reading Luke 23:39-43

“And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

This is an amazing statement which gives us the second lesson we can learn from the cross of Jesus Christ. When we call on Jesus Christ and we get saved, the Bible tells that we have fellowship with Him. Not just here on this planet but forever. Jesus did not say to the thief on the cross, “Today shalt thou be in paradise.” He said, “*Today shalt thou be **with me** in paradise.*” Jesus would go to paradise and He was taking that thief with Him. I love the fact that Jesus said, “*For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*” (Matthew 18:20). I love the fact that when Jesus gave the great commission He said, When you go, I will go with you. I love Psalm 23, which tells us that the Lord is our shepherd and we will not want. I love that fact that He will go with us through the valley of the shadow of death, and be with us always, even to the ends of the earth. Our God is a God that will fellowship with us. We should delight in the fact that wherever we go, whatever we do, Jesus is there with us. We never face any obstacle alone. We never face any temptation alone. We are not facing this global pandemic alone. We are with Jesus. When you lay down one last time and open your eyes in heaven, you will open your eyes to the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will be with you when you leave this world and will walk with you in the world to come.

We learn from the cross that we need to forgive others, because God has forgiven us. We learn from the cross that when we learn to trust Him, as our Lord, Saviour, and God, we will have eternal fellowship with Him. When you walk in that fellowship, and share that truth with others, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

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Week 36 – Lesson 3



Family

Scripture reading John 19:25-27

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”

Thus far this week, we have learned two lessons from the cross. The first was forgiveness and the second was fellowship. Today, we look at another very important lesson from the cross, family. Family mattered to the Lord Jesus Christ. Family should matter to anyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. If we are to represent Jesus Christ to a world that is lost, we need to understand how important our family is. Jesus was suffering agony on the cross. Yet, He looked down and when He saw His mother, He was concerned for her wellbeing. He looked at His beloved disciple John, who was standing next to His mother, and said, “Listen, I want you to take care of my mother. Mom, I want you to take John as your son. Let him provide for your needs. Let him care for you like family.”

Throughout the Scriptures, we see the importance of family. In the Ten Commandments, we see God instruct a husband to honor his wife by saying, “*thou shall not commit adultery.*” In Proverbs 22:6 we are told, “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*” In the Book of Ephesians, we are told as fathers “*provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Ephesians 6:4). We are to live our lives by priorities and principle. Our priorities should be (1) our relationship with God and (2) our relationship with our family. If I am going to have a right relationship with my family, I must first love my wife they way Christ loved the church. Then I must determine, as a man, to raise my children to honor their mother and to love God and serve humanity. The institution of the family was established by God, and it is our responsibility to do all we can to promote the family. To the true believer, family matters. When you as a believer understand the importance of family, and treat your family as a priority, then you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 36 – Lesson 4



Fatigue

Scripture reading Matthew 27:46

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

I was a young, 17 year old man when I got saved. I intrigued by a national evangelist who came to our city and preached a series of wonderful messages about living for the Lord Jesus Christ. The theme of that crusade was how fun it is to be saved. He told one story after another of leading people to Jesus Christ and talked about the joy of serving Jesus Christ. Truly, it is a joy to serve Jesus Christ. But can I tell you another truth? Oftentimes serving the Lord and giving Him everything you have, can bring great fatigue. It is important that Christians get away and rest because fatigue is real.

Jesus was on the cross of Calvary doing exactly what God the Father wanted Him to. He was perfect in every way. He had done nothing but love people. He had done all that God wanted Him to do. He had completed the work that God wanted Him to complete and He would cry out, *“It is finished”* (John 19:30). He hung there on the cross after having been beaten, deserted by His friends, denied by His closest disciples, and betrayed by one of His companions. He hung on the cross physically, emotionally, and spiritually fatigued. Can I tell you why He did it? He did it because it was worth it. He did it, according to Hebrews, *“for the joy that was set before him”* (Hebrews 12:2). He despised the shame of the cross. He suffered the pain and the agony of the cross. He died because He wanted you and I to have eternal life, that could have only come through His death, burial, and resurrection. Reaching this world began with someone who went to a cross and suffered fatigue for us. Doing the will of God will sometimes cause great fatigue, but we do what God wants us to do because it is worth it. We have a message for a dying world and sometimes that dying world will not receive it. When you are willing to work hard for Jesus, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 36 – Lesson 5



Faithfulness

Scripture reading John 19:28

“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.”

The night before the crucifixion, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples. The Bible says that He asked them to watch and pray with Him, but they fell asleep. In Matthew, the Bible says about Jesus, *“And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt”* (Matthew 26:39). Then He continues *“He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”* (Matthew 26:42). Jesus went to the cross in faithfulness to His Father. He asked the Father to take the cup away from Him. He did not want to drink the cup, knowing the agony He would suffer in separation of God the Father on the cross. His humanity he did not want to suffer that, nor the agony of the abuse He would face by the sinfulness of man. Yet, when He was hanging on the cross, He looked up to heaven and said, *“I thirst.”* I do not believe He was talking to a soldier. I do not believe He was speaking about wanting water or something to quench His physical thirst. I believe He was crying out to God the Father and saying, though I cannot feel You, though I cannot sense You, though You have turned Your back on Me because I have taken on the sins of the world, it’s okay. I thirst to do Your will. I thirst to do what You want Me to do. I will take the cup that You have given to Me and I will be faithful to fulfill what is needed to be done in order for mankind to be redeemed.

It is easy to follow God when there is light. It is easy to follow God when things are going well. God wants us to be faithful to follow Him through the darkness, It is important that you and I, as believers, follow the lesson of faithfulness. we must do what God wants us to do, whether or not we understand what He is doing or can see the outcome. God wants us to be faithful. When you and I follow God in faithfulness, we will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 36 – Lesson 6



Finality and Fulness

Scripture reading John 19:30

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

In Luke 23:46 the Bible tells us when Jesus died, He cried, *“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”* The Bible tells us very simply that when Jesus went to the cross, He paid our debt in full. He said, *“It is finished.”* That means it is absolutely complete.

In Acts 10, we have studied the life of Cornelius. We saw that when he received Christ, the Holy Spirit came into his life. He did not have to do anything except receive what Jesus did for him. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* (John 1:12). The Bible tells us that salvation is not something we earn, it is something we receive.

Jesus Christ died for us to give us eternal life. When we get saved, we have His Holy Spirit come and live inside of us. He fills us and if we walk in Him, we can walk in victory no matter what we face day by day. You have the power of God in your life. You can have victory in your life because of the finality of what Jesus did on the cross. Do not let anyone convince you that you can lose your salvation. You cannot even walk away from God because you are His child. He gave you eternal life. At the moment you got saved, you were born of the Spirit and He came to live inside of you. Now He wants you to surrender to His fullness every day. When you do that you, as a believer, will SHINE.