

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

841 Old Hickory Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305
oldhickorycofc.com

November 22, 2020

Volume 40, # 47

THE TRAGEDY OF A LOST SOUL

One of the striking things about the teachings of Jesus is the way He gets to the heart of every issue. There is no better illustration than the following: “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matt. 16:26). According to the context, Jesus is talking about the value of the soul of a person, not his physical body. In reality, man is a soul. In the beginning, God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to our likeness...And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (a living soul, KJV)” (Gen.1:26; 2:7). The questions Jesus raised in Matthew 16:26 have some sobering implications:

1. Humans possess an eternal, immortal nature. Mankind has a physical body and a soul or spirit. When a man dies, the spirit leaves the body (Jas. 2:26). Observe that James said “the body without the spirit is dead,” not the spirit without the body is dead. The word of God teaches us that “the spirit will return to God who gave it” (Eccl. 12:7). Jesus speaks of “both soul and body” in Matthew 10:28. Such false philosophies as atheism, humanism, and evolution deny this truth—that man has a soul or spirit. This makes man merely a physical creature with no more soul or spirit than a rock.

2. The soul is our most priceless possession. It is worth more than all material things combined. It is of divine origin (Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 12:9), eternal in duration (Matt. 25:46; Mk. 9:43-46), and can transcend earthly relationships (John 4:24). Concerning the soul, the Apostle Peter stated: “you were not redeemed with corruptible things...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...having been born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Pet. 1:18-23).

3. The soul can be sold or exchanged. Some people exchange their souls for pleasure (2 Tim. 3:4). Others sell out for popularity, loving the approval of men more than the praise of God (John12:43). Many exchange their souls for the love of the world (1 John

2:15-17). Then there are those who trade their souls for error and the false philosophies of men (Col. 2:8). Others trade their souls for material prosperity (Luke 12:16-21).

4. *Whatever the exchange, it is foolish and costly.* The world and all that is in it can never satisfy the deep, vital need of the soul in order to be at peace with God. This world and all its material contents will ultimately be destroyed by fire (2 Pet. 3:10). At death we must leave everything behind. The Apostle Paul stated: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7).

5. *There is no loss as tragic as that of the soul.* The loss of health, of a child, of one's family, of one's life in attempting to gain the "whole world" would be tragic enough, but they are not comparable to the losing of one's soul. The damnation of the soul is a multiple loss: the beauties of heaven are forfeited and the agonies of hell must be endured forever. A lost soul in hell is everlastingly abandoned "from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thess. 1:9); there is no help or hope for such a horrible condition. A soul in hell is lost for all eternity!

What could possibly be more important to us than to obey "the gospel of Christ...the power of God to salvation" (Rom. 1:16) and do whatever the Lord commands and teaches in the New Testament for our soul's eternal salvation? Jesus, while on earth, stated: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

- R.J. Evans

Who Are We to Grumble?

In America a girl complains because she didn't get a new dress, while in Russia a little girl shivers in the cold because she doesn't have enough to wear.

In America a child cries because he has to go to bed, while in Pakistan a child lies on the cold, damp ground because he has no bed.

In America a young mother complains because she has to cook breakfast, while in China a mother cries because there is no food for breakfast and her children are hungry.

In America a career woman complains because she has to wait two hours to see her doctor, while in India a woman lies helpless because there is no doctor.

In America a father complains because medical attention is too expensive, while in Malaysia a father mourns the death of his little child because there was no medicine available.

Oh, God, when will we cease to complain but instead give You thanks for all that we have?

Preacher's point – We are of all people richly blessed, but how do we respond to our blessings? Sometimes it seems like the more we have the more we grumble. God doesn't take grumbling lightly. He did not allow the Israelites to enter the land of promise because of their grumbling (Num. 14:27-29). Those who started the grumbling "died by a plague before the Lord" (Num. 14:36-37). Paul later made application of them to us today when he wrote, "And do not grumble, as some of them did – and were destroyed by the destroyer." (1 Cor. 10:10).

Heed the command of Jesus: "Do not grumble among yourselves." (John 6:43). "Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!" (James 5:9). "Do all things without grumbling..." (Phil. 2:14).

This Thursday marks the day we refer to as Thanksgiving. In the midst of all the food and family, will you remember the true reason for the day? Does it take a special day to remind you to be thankful to God? Who are we to grumble? "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

- Wayne Girdner

The Sick Lady

"Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God" (Luke 13:10-13).

This woman is nameless to you and me, but one that I think we can learn some valuable lessons from. Whatever her infirmity was, it had caused her to be unable to straighten up and had afflicted her for eighteen years. Notice with me at least three things we can learn from the life of this sick woman.

Her illness did not stop her from serving God. In verse 10, the text says that Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. This is where He met her. Though she couldn't raise herself up, she was still present on the Sabbath in the Jewish house of worship to serve her God. Don't you suppose she could have offered an excuse such as, "I'm just not able to get around very good, my back is hurting and so I think I'll stay home today"? Yet, she did not do that! Do we sometimes let an ache or pain keep us from attending worship service? Would that same sickness keep us from going to work on Monday? I have seen on numerous occasions a child sick on Sunday and both parents stay home, missing both worship services on the Lord's Day. Then on Monday, if the child is still sick, only one parent will attend to his/her needs, the other will be off to work. How devoted are we to serve our Lord? This woman did not let this illness stop her from serving the One whom she loved.

Her example of faith led to her healing. On a number of occasions in the gospels, we see people approaching our Lord, asking Him to heal them. In this instance, she did not ask to be healed, but the Lord looked and spoke to her, saying "you are loosed from your infirmity." If we will put the Lord first, He will supply the things that we need in this life (Matthew 6:33). Not only will our needs be supplied, but often great blessings, above and beyond our necessities, flow from His bountiful hands. The greatest need for mankind is healing from sin. He is always ready and willing to cure, but we must approach Him to be forgiven. Not by grace only (Ephesians 2:8). Not by faith only (James 2:24). Not by baptism only (Acts 2:38). It is a combination of grace, faith, and obedience to the will of God that through His mercy we can be saved. If you have the kind of faith this woman had, you will be obedient to your Creator, and He will heal you as well.

Once healed, she glorified God. The word glorified is defined as, "to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 157). Here was a lady who was extremely thankful to her Lord for what He had done for her. Ingratitude is a grave sin. When Jesus healed the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19), only one returned to glorify God (vv. 15, 16). He asked, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" (v.17). Only the one lowly Samaritan returned to bow and give thanks to the One that made him whole. How many times have you and I been healed? Are we truly thankful to the Lord for all His blessings? Do we show it by our actions? May we never be guilty of ingratitude! Let each of us follow the example of this sick lady.

There are only three verses in the entire Bible that mention this nameless sick woman, but what a powerful example she is to all who will read this account. May we live our lives in such a way, even if others do not know our names, in crossing their paths we can be such an example to them. You never know who is watching.

- Jimmy R. Mickells

- * “Plan ahead — Noah didn't build the ark in the rain!”
 - * “The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth!”
 - * “Eyes that look are common. Eyes that see are rare!” — J. Oswald Sanders
 - * “Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see!”
 - * “When Christ entered our world he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives!”
-

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The sermon for Sunday morning is: *“Two Ways You Can Lose Your Faith!”*
(Text: Luke 8:13).

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)