

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Redemption Crisis • Week of October 29

Introduction

Sin wreaks havoc on our lives. In the recent One Year Bibles Readings, the words of Jeremiah speak of Jerusalem, once beautiful, now lying in ruins. Why does the Lord hate sin – because sin separates us from God’s presence and ruins the beauty and glory for which He created us. Just as the Lord warned Judah to turn from their sin and rebellion, the Lord warns us today. He calls out to us in love: Acknowledge me alone as Savior and King of your lives. Yet, like the people of Judah and Jerusalem during the days of Jeremiah, we so often turn a deaf ear.

Because the Lord disciplines those He loves, He does not allow His people to go unpunished. It is tough to read some of the stories recorded in the Bible, yet God’s Word has been written to teach us. There have been times we have all had to face the ugly consequences of our sin and rebellion. Like Judah, we all have demanded our own way. Then, when God allows us to have our own way – the way we have demanded – He is merciful. He brings us to a place where we see our filthiness, so we may come and give to the Lord our dirty rags.

Read Lamentations 1:1-8

Fast-forward to the days of Jesus, and we enter the scene when Jesus and His disciples are arriving back from across the lake, the land of the Gerasenes, and a large crowd has gathered on the shores of Galilee to welcome back Jesus and His disciples. As Jesus greets the crowd, someone makes his way through the crowd, and falls at the Lord’s feet. It is Jairus, the leader of the local synagogue. His twelve-year-old daughter is dying and he desperately pleads with the Lord to come to his home.

As they set out, another person also makes her way through the crowd; unnamed, unseen. She has been suffering a terrible condition of persistent bleeding for twelve years. Out of faith, and *under the radar*, she comes up behind Jesus and touches the hem of His robe. Immediately the bleeding stops. Though unclean, she is healed because she has enough faith to reach out to Jesus, probably hoping no one notices. Yet, her faith doesn’t stay secret for long. Jesus wants to know: Who touched me?

Because the miracle happens *on the way* to Jairus’ house, publicly acknowledging the healing takes time; thus, time runs out for Jairus’ daughter. She dies before Jesus gets to Jairus’ house.

Read Luke 8:40-56

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Reflection

What do these stories have in common? Do we invite the Lord into the ruins of our lives? Or do we merely give up, and remain in exile? We may think we are too dirty to be repurposed, our plight beyond all hope. But do we understand that God does not see us that way?

What’s the difference – perhaps today simply acknowledge the Lord. Remember He is God and we are not! Think about the words in Jeremiah’s lamentations, and the stories recorded in the gospel of Luke: Without the Lord, we experience exile. But with the Lord, we are called to return home. Apart from Jesus, we have filthy rags and are considered unclean. But reaching out to Jesus in faith, we experience an undeniable miracle. Without Jesus in the room, when death seems to have the upper hand, we experience deep loss and sorrow. But when Jesus shows up, the life and the laughter are restored. When that which is dead or unclean touches Jesus, His presence makes us alive and clean.

Levitical law prohibited a priest from entering the home of a dead person, or touching a person who is unclean (Leviticus 21:1, Leviticus 15:25-27). But because Jesus is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16), He is not deterred by your condition. Nor is the Lord affected by time constraints. He is not in a hurry. The Lord Jesus waits for you to reach out to Him in faith. In Scripture we don’t see Jesus beating down the door of our heart. He stands and patiently knocks (Revelation 3:20). He is our wounded healer and by His stripes (wounds, beatings) we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). There is no reason to remain in brokenness, when Jesus – the Suffering Servant – has already paid the debt and suffered for your sin. His resurrection from death proves Jesus is who He says He is. And His scars forever prove that no one loves you the way Jesus loves you. He *is* our hope of redemption.

Redemption

Text: Lamentations 1:4-8, Luke 8:40-56

PLAIN TRUTH

When unclean touches Jesus it is _____, and
when _____ touches Jesus it is _____.

1. When _____ touches _____, the _____ becomes _____.
2. When _____ touches a dead body it becomes _____.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

Oct. 29: Lamentations 1:1-2:22, Philemon 1:1-25, Psalm 101:1-8, Proverbs 26:20
Oct. 30: Lamentations 3:1-66, Hebrews 1:1-14, Psalm 102:1-28, Proverbs 26:21-22
Oct. 31: Lamentations 4:1-5:22, Hebrews 2:1-18, Psalm 103:1-22, Proverbs 26:23
Nov. 1: Ezekiel 1:1-3:15, Hebrews 3:1-19, Psalm 104:1-23, Proverbs 26:24-26
Nov. 2: Ezekiel 3:16-6:14, Hebrews 4:1-16, Psalm 104:24-35, Proverbs 26:27
Nov. 3: Ezekiel 7:1-9:11, Hebrews 5:1-14, Psalm 105:1-15, Proverbs 26:28
Nov. 4: Ezekiel 10:1-11:25, Hebrews 6:1-20, Psalm 105:16-36, Proverbs 27:1-2

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