

INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Photo

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

Entry 9 - 7

A - Ω

Jerusalem or Jericho

Here is the most important question: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus was asked the question and the depth of His answer rattled the one who asked. A discussion followed, which led to the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25.) A Jewish expert of the law asked the question to test Jesus. Jesus replied, “What does the law say and how do you interpret it?” The man’s answer was perfect, “You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart ... and your neighbor as yourself.” Eternal salvation involves loving God and loving people. These are the two most important doctrines. All other doctrines are only commentary that point to these two. Woven into the explanation, Jesus tells a story of a man on the Jericho road. The road could be called the Jerusalem road. Everyone in the world is on it. All is determined by the direction one is facing.

The expert of the Law was embarrassed when Jesus told him - to practice what you preach. Loving God and loving people? For sure, now Sir, **“Go and do it.”**

The religious man was caught off guard. He wanted a theological debate not an inspection of his life. He had come to test Jesus, now he was being tested. To excuse himself, he said, **“And who is my neighbor?”**

Then, Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan. **“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.” Lk. 10:30**

The two cities represent the very best and the very worst. Jerusalem is the City of God, the city of the prophets, the place where God’s throne will be placed. God’s name and all of His blessings are there. Many a boy or girl began in a good place. They had great

parents and were raised in a wonderful Christian home, but they went down. They wanted to explore a life of sin so, symbolically speaking, they left Jerusalem and journeyed toward the dark city of Jericho.

Jericho represents the place of sin and destruction. It is the oldest and lowest city in the world. It is next to the dead sea, the lowest place in the world. Jericho is only a short distance by car but it is 3000 feet lower than Jerusalem. It is 1000 ft below sea level and it was the cursed city. The children of Israel destroyed this city of witchcraft when they entered the promised land. After destroying it, Joshua cursed the city because of its wickedness. He said if anyone rebuilds it, his sons will die. Years later, Jericho was rebuilt, the builder’s sons died just as the curse said.

Every boy or girl who goes from Jerusalem to Jericho will, one day, fall into the hands of thieves. Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy and he is waiting for

his prey where people go down on the Jericho road.

Jesus inferred that the man (probably a Jew) forsook Jerusalem and went down to Jericho. Soon, he was left for dead on the side of the road. The Jericho road is a hostile, desert place, a haunt for wild animals such as hyenas and jackals. If this man does not get help, he will not make it through the night.

The story is bothering the expert of the law because he likes to ignore the inconvenience of human suffering and he never wants to hear about a Jew who is going down. Nevertheless, Jesus continues.

He said that a priest happened to be going down the same road. A priest should not be going down this road toward Jericho, but this priest has a secret life. When he sees the beaten man in the ditch, he passes by on the other side. A man of God, in sin, will not care about others as he should; he only cares for himself.

Then, following the priest, a Levite was going down on the Jericho road, and he also passed by the beaten man.

The tribe of Levi is made up of two groups; those who are priests and those who serve in the temple but are not priests. For example, Moses and his brother Aaron are both Levites, but Aaron is a priest and Moses is not.

When Jesus told about these religious leaders going down to Jericho, the expert of the law was uncovered because he was like them. Upon hearing that both of them failed to help the beaten man, he was embarrassed. He knew that Jesus could see right through him.

Jesus, however, was still not finished; He was about to test the man's racism. Many religious leaders of that day hated the Samaritans for they were half-breeds; they were misfits who did not belong with Jews or Gentiles. Jesus loves the misfits whom the world rejects and He hates racism. He made the Samaritan the hero of the story. Maybe you are like this Samaritan. ***"But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him."* Lk. 10:33**

The Samaritan was probably coming from his home in Samaria which is along the Jordan River. He was not going down the Jericho road like the others. He was going up from Samaria to Jerusalem so he had to pass Jericho on the way. He was travelling in the opposite direction, therefore the road had a different name. It was not called the Jericho road but the Jerusalem road.

When he saw the beaten man, he got off his donkey, poured wine and oil on his wounds and put bandages on him.

In the Bible, the oil and wine represent the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus. Symbolically speaking, these elements point to the spiritual, mercy ministry of the good Samaritan.

The ministry of the good Samaritan led to the wounded man's salvation and healing. Jesus does not forget the fallen or the beaten, even when their dilemma is their own fault. Even then, Jesus goes after the sinner. His love is unbeatable when God's people continue in intercession and prayer for a lost soul.

The Samaritan lifted the wounded man onto his donkey and took him to an inn. He stayed with him all night, no-doubt, ministering to him with prayer and medical attention. In the morning, he paid the innkeeper asking him to continue caring for the man. He also said he would come back on his way home and pay for any outstanding bill the man might have incurred.

Then Jesus asked the expert of the law; ***"Which of these three ... was a neighbor to the man who fell?"***

The man responded, ***"The one who had mercy on him."***

Jesus said, ***"Go and do likewise."***

Every one is on this road. Depending on the direction they are traveling it is called the Jericho road or the Jerusalem road. Those on the Jericho road will take a beating and they may lose everything. Those on the Jerusalem road are heading for mount Zion, the city of the king. They will receive every blessings and they will help many people who are wounded along the way. AΩ



Christians for Messiah Ministries

Instructions in Righteousness is produced monthly by "Christians for Messiah Ministries (CFM)." Dr. Peter D. Wyns is the President of CFM. After 40 years of extensive ministry in more than 35 nations, he is now based in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, contact "Christians for Messiah Ministries."

Christians for Messiah Ministries PO Box 36324, Rock Hill, South Carolina, 29732

ph: 803-324-0739 or 704-608-7793 e-mail: reachus@peterwyns.com www.peterwyns.org www.lifeatantioch.org Facebook

MAKE DONATION CHECKS PAYABLE TO CFM FOR TAX RECEIPTS