

LEARNING LIFE'S LESSONS

(Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30)

We have all known people who have lived in sin.

As a result, they have suffered greatly because they ignored God's laws.

The hard ship they suffered should have taught them some valuable lessons.

But we've seen these people go right back into their old sinful ways again.

Somehow, they did not learn their lesson.

Christians are disciples. (Acts 11:26)

A disciple is a learner.

Are we any better than sinners or those who have obeyed the Gospel?

Have we learned from our past mistakes?

Or are we still learning every day, as we study the word of God?
(Matthew 11:28)

Let's look at some common mistakes that we usually have not yet learn our lesson.

The first lesson is that bitterness will destroy you.

Paul wrote, *"Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."* (Eph 4:31-32)

Hebrews 12:14 says, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see God. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness spring up trouble you, and thereby many may be defiled."*

From these verses, we see that bitterness has no place in the life of the Christian.

We must put it away and put kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness in its place.

If not, bitterness will bring only trouble.

It can only defile.

Many Christians are bitter in heart.

They want revenge.

They will not forgive.

Solomon wrote, *"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."* (Prov 23:7)

If we think bitter thoughts, we will become a people who will engage in bitter deeds, and then come to a bitter end!

We must leave revenge to God. (Heb. 10:30)

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Jesus taught us that our sins are forgiven in direct proportion to the way we forgive those who sinned against us. (Mt 6:14-15)

¹⁴ For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

¹⁵ But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

If we are so bitter that we will not forgive others, God cannot and will not forgive us of our sins.

A Christian who is bitter will not inherit eternal life.

The second lesson is that sin always produces sorrow.

"They that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind." (Hos 8:7)

"He that soweth iniquity, shall reap calamity." (Prov 22:8)

"Sin when it is fullgrown bringeth forth death." (Jas 1:15)

"The wages of sin is death." (Rom 6:23)

Every tear that has dampened our cheeks or dimmed our eyes,
every burden that bent our backs,
every gray hair that has appeared like silver threads among the gold,
every worry that has furrowed our brows,
every sickness that has paled our cheeks,
every thorn that has pricked our hands,
every reverse that has broken our hearts,
every adversity that has laid us low,
every open grave that we have had to stand beside,
yea, this and much more, has resulted from sin.

Sin is
first appealing, then appalling;
first alluring, then alienating;
first deceiving, then damning;
first promises life, then provides death;
it is the most disappointing and the most sorrow producing thing in all
this world!

The third lesson is that money cannot buy happiness.

Jesus said, "*A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth.*" (Lk 12:15)

In Luke 12:16-21, he illustrated what he meant with the story of the rich farmer.

This man had an abundant crop.

His harvest was so big that he had to pull down his barns and build bigger barns.

He thought he had it made.

He was going to sit back and take it easy.

God called him a fool and took away his soul.

All that he had went to someone else!

For after all, you really cannot take it with you when you go.

Paul told us that the love of money is the root of all evil.

He said that the love of money can cause men to err from the faith and pierce themselves through with many sorrows. (I Tim 6:10)

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

George H. Lorimer said,

"Money cannot buy friendship - friendship must be earned.

Money cannot buy happiness - happiness is a mental attitude and one can be happy in a cottage as well as in a mansion.

Money cannot buy sunsets, singing birds, the music on the wind - these are as free as the air we breathe.

Money cannot buy peace - peace is the result of a constructive philosophy of life.

Money cannot buy character - character is what we are when we are in the dark.

It is good to have money and the things money can buy; but it is good too, to check up once in a while and make sure you have not lost the things that money cannot buy."

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11.

Solomon had more money than you and I could possibly imagine.

He used it to buy everything his eye could see and everything his heart could desire.

But he said it was all vanity and a vexation of the spirit.

He wrote, *"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this also is vanity."* (Ecc 5:10)

In my opinion, money can buy a house but it cannot make a home.

It may save a life, but it cannot save a soul.

Jesus said, "*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Mt 16:26)

All the money in the history of the world cannot save one single soul that is alive or dead! (I Pet 1:18-19)

¹⁸ *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

¹⁹ *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Some of the most miserable people in the world are rich people.

One man said, "I have spent half of my life making my fortune and the other half trying to keep others from stealing it." How sad!

So I ask you,
have you learned that bitterness will destroy you?
Have you learned that sin can only produce sorrow?
Have you learned that money cannot buy happiness?

Have you learned your lesson?