



Life Group Study Notes

“Redeeming Love”

Debbie Lowe - May 12, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is one good habit or discipline that you wished you practiced more in your life?
- Are you generally slow or quick to “forgive and forget”?
- Who do you admire for how they practice forgiveness toward others?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Isaiah 59:1-21 ESV

Behold, the Lord 's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched. Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace. Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; we hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among those in full vigor we are like dead men. We all growl like bears; we moan and moan like doves; we hope for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: transgressing, and denying the Lord, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.

So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the Lord drives. "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord. "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore."

1. Our Offenses

God indicts Israel (and indeed all humans) for their many sins. Isaiah clearly spells out God's indictment. The apostle Paul quotes this prophecy in Romans (chapter 3) when he lays out the argument that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. There is no one who is personally righteous before God. This is one of the most basic truths everyone must embrace if they want to be reconciled with God. Each of us must accept responsibility for our own sins. We must acknowledge that we are guilty before God and are deserving of his holy judgment.

2. His Redemption

Nevertheless, God promised that he himself would intervene and provide the judgment upon sin and deliverance from sin that was so desperately needed. Paul reveals that God did this through Jesus, who became sin for us when he was crucified on our behalf. God judged our many sins when Jesus was put to death. But God also provided for our deliverance by granting us Jesus' perfect righteousness. Jesus has provided for our forgiveness and reconciliation.

3. Our Response

God wants us to respond to him by surrendering to him and trusting him. We are to turn from evil and instead are to follow God. We are to accept his testimony regarding who Jesus is and what he has done for us. We are to believe the Gospel. If we do, God will give his Spirit to dwell in us to help us and guide us, so that we might know God, please him, and forever be with him.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What do you believe God wants from you at this point in your relationship with him?
- What do you believe God wants to do for you at this point in your life?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the salvation He has provided for us through Jesus.
- Ask God for his guidance and help to lead you into more of his purposes for you.