**Bible/College Class Notes – Pride – Lesson 13**

***Opposition To Jesus – Superiority & Pride***

**This week** we learn how pride in our hearts can be overcome and replaced by humility.

**Teaching Notes**

**We continue in our series – Opposition to the Lord Jesus**

**The Lord Jesus Calls Matthew – To Leave All & Follow Him.**

**Crowds Flock to Jesus at the Seaside near Capernaum to Hear Him Preach.**

**Wanting to hear Him** because He spoke with authority

– Not as the Pharisees.

Some had no time for ‘religion’ – they were more interested in making money.

Set in their hearts on enjoying the things they could buy.

Matthew (Levi), **was one of these,**

 A Tax Collector for the Romans**.**

**Matthews’ Great Cost of Truly Repenting For His Sin.**

He had heard the Lord preach the need to repent of his personal sin.

**Up until this time he was an unbeliever.**

As a Jew he knew much of the OT, but he did not really worship the One True God which it speaks clearly of.

**Are we like this? We know much but do not believe.**

Matthew was disloyal to his fellow countrymen by becoming a Roman Tax Collector. **The people hated him.**

**The Scribes and Pharisees despised him. A Publican.**

**Along with his sin of unbelief,** he had taken more money than he should have done

- **stealing it for himself.**

**2**

**The Romans demanded accounts from him –**

As he heard the Lord preach of the need to prepare for the coming Judgement Day, he now began to realise that, on the Final Judgement Day,

he would have to give an account to God of his life.

**How would he defend himself? He knew he could not.**

**#**

**How will you defend yourself on that great Day?**

**What will you say to God. Nothing, you will be silent**

As Matthew sat at his seat of custom, he was now convicted in his heart that God saw him as a great sinner.

**He knew that all his secret sins** were seen by Almighty God, Who knows all things. **Nothing hid from Him.**

He needed forgiveness of his sins to be right with God.

**But he also realised** that to **not** **turn** to the Lord **today** would **cost** him even more – **a lost eternity.**

**Do you have any understanding of the immense value of knowing your sins are forgiven, and spending eternity with the Lord? Think and pray about it.**

**He knew that to stop and turn from his sinful habits would cost him dearly**. His old way of life had to stop.

**He must pay back and not steal any more.**

**Some years ago, I knew of a young lady,** who lived in the Czech Republic. Her name was Veronica.

She had come to know the Lord as her personal Saviour.

**Before she was saved,** she was on drugs, and she stole from shops to fund her sinful habit.

**After her conversion** she re-visited the shops, explaining that she was now **a Christian, forgiven by the Lord God,** and had stolen from them.

She now wanted to pay for the goods she had taken.

**The shop keepers were amazed. What a testimony!**

**3**

**Matthew Responds to The Lord’s Gracious Call.**

As He sat at his seat of custom, the Lord looked at him

and called him, ***“Follow Me.”***

Up until this time he had not found the strength or determination to make the break from his sinful life.

**But now** the Lord Jesus had come to call him personally to repentance and faith.

**He clearly saw** how hollow, vain, and empty his life was.

**He grasped** the opportunity of the Lord’s Call,

**recognising** that the Lord was the only Person Who was able to deal with his despicable, and sinful ways.

**To remove his guilt.**

**He was now a converted man, with a changed heart.**

He now knew the forgiveness of the Lord.

**He hears Christ’s call and obeys.**

He leaves his seat of custom (his lucrative job),

and in faith he follows the Lord.

**Can you imagine the joyous experience** he had of speaking with the Saviour – **recognising God The Son.**

**Discovering the value** of the rich spiritual blessings of God, which far outweighed earthy money and possessions.

**Eventually to become one of the 12 Apostles.**

**And an inspired writer of the Gospel of Matthew.**

**He invites the Lord to his house.**

and calls his friends to meet and hear his new-found Lord and Saviour. **What a testimony!**

**All believers want others to know their Lord.**

**At Matthews House.**

**Matthew’s worldly fiends were curious** to join him to meet his new-found Friend. **His Saviour.**

**They were surprised to see Jesus,** mixing with them and willing to dine with them.

**4**

The saviour did not disown them as sinners as the Proud Scribes and Pharisees did.

**They wanted to know** what there was about Jesus Christ which made Matthew give up his lucrative position to follow Him. Was He truly The Messiah?

**They had no time for the religious leaders** of their day but were willing to hear what the Lord could tell them about the Living God, and how to know Him personally.

Then the Scribes and Pharisees appeared on the scene.

**The Scribes and Pharisees Show Their Pride.**

**They had hardened hearts** of unbelief and so were not interested in hearing the truth from the Lord’s lips.

**They did not recognise the Lord as God,** even though they saw the powerful miracles that He performed.

They have closely watched the Lord and were determined to see where they could find fault in Him.

**So, they watched His every move, like a hawk.**

**Critically listening to everything He said.**

**Not with a view to believing it, but to find fault.**

They were very keen to accuse the Lord of blaspheme.

His claiming to be God.

They wanted to discredit Him and exalt themselves.

**But they did not realise that they would never succeed with this because He is God.**

**Can you imagine the glee they had** when they found the Lord breaking one of their self-imposed rules –

**eating with Tax Gatherers, sinners.**

**This seemed to them an ideal moment**

**to ‘expose’ the Lord.**

**With a superior attitude,** they said to His disciples,

***‘He is eating and drinking with sinners’,***

**5**

***‘He cannot be from God’.***

Their insinuation was that Jesus was unholy and had defiled Himself by associating with Matthew and his friends.

Implying, ***“Jesus* cannot possibly be God.”**

**In their pride** they had totally missed understanding God’s intention to bring sinners to repentance and faith,

that God loves sinners, but hates their sin.

**To know forgiveness and find peace with God.**

The Lord heard their comments and said to them,

**“*They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*” Mark 2v17**

**The Lord Jesus, Who is the Great Physician, VA**

**used a simple illustration to silence them**

**and make it clear to them and everyone else.**

1. **Who needs a doctor? VA**

Obviously, those who are sick.

Those full of health do not go to the doctor.

**Who did Jesus come to save? VA**

Was it for perfect people?

or those whose lives are sick with sin?

**We know that the Lord Jesus came as a Saviour. So, we would expect to see Him dealing with the lost and needy souls that He had come to save.**

1. **Doctors see many sick people but do not catch the illness themselves.**

You cannot be a doctor if you are afraid of catching your patient’s disease.

The Lord, as Holy God, **could not** catch the people’s sin.

**6**

1. **Some people suffer and die because they will not see a doctor.**

They try to hide their symptoms, ignore them, pretending that they do not exist.

**They are afraid of the treatment or an operation.**

The Pharisees were sinners too – being guilty of many sins – **but** they thought that they had no need of a Saviour.

**They thought they could put themselves right with God. They did not feel the need of a Physician.**

**What a foolish, proud, mistake.**

**They would die in their sins. Lost for ever.**

1. **The Lord Jesus Christ is The Great Physician, VA (Healing Doctor), of Souls.**

He portrays Himself as a skilled and sincerely interested doctor. **He truly cares for sinners.**

He does not flatter and assure us that

**’all is well with our souls’** when it is not.

He exposes our sin to us and offers a way for it to be dealt with for ever – to remove its’ guilt. **To heal, cleanse us.**

**To remove it from God’s memory.**

**Conversion** can be a painful experience. Our Pride is hurt.

**We have to be humbled.**

But when we experience forgiveness, **the result is joyful**.

Recovery from sin brings us **Peace with God**.

**Have you been seriously ill?**

**What joy is experienced when you are made better.**

**Have you ever faced the problem of your sin being a terrible heart disease and come to the Lord Jesus for healing, cleansing?**

**How tragic to miss the opportunity offered today to come to the Physician of Souls to receive total recovery from the deadly disease of sin.**

**7**

**Pride** in our souls is the **‘Old Enemy’** **VA**

It tries to stop us from seeing our sin and its consequences

 and from seeking the forgiveness of The Lord. It stops us from experiencing the Joy of having Peace with God.

**Our sin is like having terminal cancer.**

Without its’ removal we will surely die to face Eternal Judgment.

**Do not let your Pride, a feeling of Superiority, and Stubbornness keep you away from accepting God’s offer of forgiveness.**

**The Lord Jesus said, *“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God”****.* **John 3 v17-18**

**Doctrine**

**The Lord is the Physician of Souls**

 **Only He can remove the guilt of our sin.**

 **Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father**

**There will be a Final Judgement Day**

 **We have no worries if Christ is our Saviour.**