

2-Sep-10

Title: Test Results (Luke 10:25)

Scripture: Leviticus 18:1-5 Pages _____
Galatians 3:16-22
Luke 10:23-28

Main Idea: Faith leads to joy, unbelief to sorrow.

Many people are proud to say that they are skeptical by nature. One of the proudest was Darwin's bulldog, Thomas Huxley. Huxley strongly embraced Darwinism, and debated Christians aggressively at the turn of the 20th century. Huxley said: "Skepticism is the highest duty, blind faith the unpardonable sin."

Are we skeptical by nature? I think so... and I think that skepticism is rooted in our old nature. Skepticism is doubt, a lack of faith. Hmmm.... Where do you suppose that comes from.

Gen. 3:1 *"Has God indeed said ... ?"*

Who can walk past a wall bearing a sign, "Wet Paint"... without the desire to touch it and see? How many sidewalks have fingerprints in them as permanent evidence of the skeptical mind?

King Solomon in his proverbs to his son, likened wisdom and foolishness to two women. In **Proverbs 9**, Wisdom said:

"As for him who lacks understanding, come ... forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding."

Foolishness said:

"Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret I pleasant. But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell."

In today's Scripture, Jesus teaches us that Faith leads to joy, unbelief to sorrow.

Read Scripture Text (Luke 10:23-28)

Jesus teaches us that:

- I. **Blessed are eyes of faith.**
- II. **Testing God leaves only condemnation.**
- III. **God brings faith in His promises.**

I. Blessed are eyes of faith.

The circumstance that prompted Jesus to turn to His disciples was a time of great joy for both the disciples and for Jesus. The 70 disciples whom Jesus had sent out to proclaim the gospel and to heal the sick had just returned rejoicing.

Lk 10:17

“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.’”

And Jesus said:

Lk 10:20

“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the (Holy) Spirit....”

And then in verse 23:

“Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see.’”

Blessed are the eyes of faith. It was by faith in Jesus that the 70 had gone out. It was by faith in Jesus that they proclaimed the gospel, and it was by faith in Jesus that they had victory over the demons.

New believers and victory over demons did not create faith, but were the result of faith. And the eyes of faith witnessed these miracles and rejoiced. And Jesus rejoiced with them.

Webster’s dictionary says that the word blessed means: holy and sacred, enjoying great happiness, bliss, comfort and joy, and the state of those souls in heaven. All these were true for those who have eyes of faith.

The unbeliever goes through life and attributes the good things that happen to good fortune, luck, or his own cleverness. I knew a man once who had an auction at home, and constantly commented on how lucky he was to sell so many things at such a great price. Try as I might, I could never convince him that the success of his sale was God's provision in His life. He did not have eyes to see.

Jesus reminds each of His disciples, those who have faith, what joy and comfort they know as they can see the power of God working in their lives.

2Cor. 5:7
Heb.11:1

“We walk by faith, not by sight.” And *“Faith is the realization of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

So, we do not have faith because of what we see, but see... when we come to faith. And **Faith leads to joy,** but **unbelief to sorrow.**

II. Testing God leaves only condemnation.

One of the saddest things we can experience is when some are having joy, others cannot help but throw out discouragement. A man takes his family out to dinner, maybe to give his wife a brake from the kitchen, maybe to celebrate a birthday or some other event. Then he is crabby with the waiter, complains about the food, and rebukes the kids for being too loud.

Some people cannot have fun, even when they are trying. Why? Perhaps there is some great pain in their life. Perhaps some unspoken problem. All too often, however, it is because of self-centeredness and unbelief.

The disciples were rejoicing, Jesus is rejoicing, and then, like out of nowhere, and so inappropriate for the joyful moment:

v:25

“Behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested (Jesus).”

Well, let's stop there for a moment. Because it is important to recognize that the Bible carries a strong warning not to put God to the test. Back when Jesus had finished His 40

days in the wilderness, Satan tested Him in several ways. In one test, Satan carried Jesus up to the highest point of the Temple and said:

“If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and ‘In their hands they shall bear you up...’ Jesus said to (Satan), ‘It is written again, You shall not test the LORD your God.’”

Jesus is quoting Moses from **Deuteronomy 6:16** where the people of God are warned not to test the LORD as they did at Massah where they rebuked Moses and doubted God.

There are consequences for testing God.

Gal. 6:7 ***“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”***

The Lawyer knows this is true, he just doesn't believe that Jesus is God. He does not have eyes of faith. Strange really. It is late in Jesus' ministry; sometime in the late fall or early winter of 29, the second year of Jesus' ministry. So many miracles. So many sermons proclaiming the good news. The leaders of the Temple are conspiring to kill Jesus but they need some evidence. So the lawyer stands up to test Jesus.

“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

How many ways could Jesus have dealt with this unbeliever? But Jesus did not come to condemn but to save the lost. So Jesus gives him the same Scripture that convinces us all that we are lost and can do nothing to save ourselves. The Scripture that convinces us that we need God's Savior to have eternal life. Jesus made the lawyer look into the law.

v:26-28 ***“Jesus said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?’ So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’”***

“And Jesus said to him, ‘You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.’”

Good for him. He knows the law... now Jesus tells him, “fine – you want to save yourself, go do it.” Only a fool would accept such an offer. The law is there to show us our sin and our need for a Savior. None of us can always love God with all our hearts and soul and mind and strength. And in a moment the lawyer will ask Jesus “who is my neighbor?” Who can always love his neighbor as himself. Always, not a momentary failure. No one can do it. The Bible says we are born in sin and no one is righteous, no not one. **(Rom. 3:10)**

This morning’s text from **Galatians 3:21** reminds us that

“...the Scripture (law) has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”

So Jesus tells the lawyer testing him, look at the law you will either be judged by the law, or you will be judged by faith. **Faith leads to joy, unbelief to sorrow.**

III. God brings faith in His promises.

We don’t know what happened to the lawyer. Jesus pointed him to the law. And the law will always do the work that God intends, which is to convict us that we are lost, and cannot save ourselves. At that moment when our hearts are filled with grief and fear of the certain judgment that we deserve; then God reminds us of His promises.

Gal. 3:11 *“The just shall live by faith.”*

It is God’s Word and Holy Spirit working in your life, bringing you to trust that Jesus is God, that He died for you on the Cross of Calvary, that your sins are forgiven. It is God’s Word and the Holy Spirit who creates faith in your heart. When you receive that faith, then your eyes are opened to see the wonder and joy of God’s continuing provision.

But for unbelievers...

2Cor.3:1 *“But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. ...when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”*

I was visiting a nursing home this week and a dear old grandmother said to me, “But pastor, we can’t see Jesus.” And I asked her if she knew where her friend sitting next to her was born. She said no! I asked her if she knew what were the most important events of her friend’s life. She said no.

And I told her “You know where Jesus was born; you know how he was born, you know how His mother and Father came together, where they lived, what they did for a living. You know all of Jesus’ friends. You know about all the miracles that He performed, the people He raised from the dead. You know when He wept over Jerusalem, and wept with Martha and Mary. You know how He died. And you know that He died for you. You know that on the third day, He was raised from the dead. Tell me again, can’t you see Jesus.

She said yes... I see Him.

Dear friends, the promises of God are all yes in Jesus Christ. By faith in Him you are found righteous and have eternal life. Have you eyes to see? Or are you testing God. When he looked into the Law, it was the lawyer who was tested. I pray that the lawyer turned to Jesus and asked Him to forgive his sins, and be his Savior.

Faith leads to joy, unbelief to sorrow.

Have you done that? Have you confessed to the Lord that you are condemned by His perfect law; but also, that you want to receive the promise of eternal life. Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? The prayer goes like this:

Dear Jesus, I am a sinner, condemned because I have broken your law. But I have heard the good news. O Jesus, please come into my heart, be my Savior and my Lord. Help me to turn from sin, and trust in you O God. I ask this in Jesus’ Holy name, Amen.