

LUKE Lesson 70

The Four Returns in the Book of Luke

25 October 2019

THE RETURN OF HOPELESSNESS (Luke 23:48)

1. God had not spoken to the Children of Israel for over 400 years. Malachi was written in 397 B.C.
2. The Israelites were subject to the Roman political system which was contrary to their way of life.
3. They'd been waiting for their Messiah to deliver them, and they hoped Jesus was the one to free them and establish Israel as the head of all the nations.
4. When Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified, they still had some hope as long as He was still alive.
5. When they saw Jesus die, their hope was gone. They didn't understand that Jesus came to die; not to solve their political and social problems.

Application:

1. Many Men and women have come to Jesus Christ hoping He will help them put their broken lives back together, heal their body, get them out of a tough situation, and solve all their problems.
 - a. Most often they've been lied to by a preacher or a false witness who preached another "Jesus."
2. When they found out Jesus hadn't come to fix their temporal problems and circumstances, but to die for their sins, they returned to the hopeless life they were living before they met Jesus.
 - a. This is why it's important that we speak the truth of the Bible concerning Jesus Christ and avoid giving people false expectations.
 - b. Prosperity churches are full of people who are there expecting Jesus to solve their problems. When He doesn't, they don't stick around; they go back to their old life.
 - i. Health, wealth, and prosperity is ours in eternity. But for now, we will experience the same ups and downs that all sinners experience in a cursed world. (See Mathew 6:33).

THE RETURN OF RESIGNATION (Luke 23:55) (Giving up)

1. These women had followed Jesus and ministered to His needs from their own substance. They were very devoted believers.
2. Now that Jesus is dead, they feel as though their efforts may have been all for nothing even though they know it was God's will. Now they don't know what to do.

Application:

1. Christians today may serve the Lord faithfully for many years and not see any results. This often leads to a sense of futility (*what's the use?*) and they give up.
2. It's important to remember that we are responsible to do what God told us to do and leave the results up to Him. There may be results that we won't know about until the Judgment Seat. Therefore, persevere (Eph 6:18) and stay the course all the way to the end (2 Tim 4:7). Don't let apparent lack of results discourage you from continuing to serve the Lord. God's word won't return to Him void (Isa 55:11)

(1 Cor 15:58)

THE RETURN OF JOY (Luke 24:9, Matthew 28:8)

1. Certain women found the empty tomb and were told by two angels that Jesus was risen. Their hearts filled with joy as they ran to tell the good news of the resurrection to the disciples. (Rom 1:4, 1 Cor 15:21).
 - a. Jesus' rising from the dead proved that He'd conquered death, Hell, sin, and the grave (1 Cor 15:55)
 - b. They remembered Jesus' words (vs 8). When they saw that His promise was fulfilled it turned their tears to joy.

Application:

1. When you are feeling sad and gloomy, you ought to count your many blessings. Remember the Lord's promises to you and recognize all the ways He's proven Himself to you. Thank Him for everything He's done for you. That is the cure for depression.
 2. Remember that the Lord's resurrection means that one day you also will be resurrected and be reunited with your believing loved ones (1 Cor 15:20-23).
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THE RETURN OF DEVOTION (Luke 17:11)

1. Ten lepers were cured by Jesus; cleansed of an incurable disease.
 - a. Some went back to their old life and lived however they wanted to.
 - b. Some took the free gift and felt no obligation to serve the Lord.
 - c. Some got confused by some false teachers and unbiblical counsel and were led astray.
 - d. One man returned, fell at Jesus' feet, thanked Him, and gave glory to God in so doing.

Application:

1. Men and women get saved today, lock in their salvation, get their "*ticket to Heaven*," but never thank the Lord Jesus or serve Him a day in their life.
 2. Salvation is by Grace through faith, unconditionally. You don't have to live for Jesus to get saved. Jesus won't take your salvation away if you don't live right. The gifts and calling of God are without repentance (Rom. 11:29).
 - a. But if you would take the time to consider what the Lord has done for you, you will want to live a life that will glorify God and show your appreciation for His wonderful gift.
 - b. One day Jesus will honor those who lived for Him (Mt 25:23, 1 Cor 3:14, Mk 12:43).
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