

## ADVICE TO THE YOUNG

### LUKE 2:40

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. If you are young, there are things you need to know. If you are old, there are things you need to share.
2. At what age are you old enough to share advice on previous life experiences? (Luke 1.7-10; Num. 8.24,25; Joel 2.28)
3. The Bible tells us about Jesus growing up as a child and maturing into an adult. (Luke 2.40,52)

#### I. JESUS GREW PHYSICALLY

##### A. LUKE 2.40: *"the Child grew."*

1. Grew is the concept of increasing in size.
2. Advice to the young: Give attention to your physical development. (1 Cor. 9.27; 1 Tim. 4.8)

##### B. Your body is not your own.

1. Some believe that their bodies are created with appetites that are to be satisfied. (1 Cor. 6.13)
2. **1 CORINTHIANS 6.19,20:** *"Do you not know that...you are not your own? therefore glorify God in your body"*
3. **ROMANS 12.1:** *"present your bodies a living sacrifice."*

##### C. Your body is not eternal.

1. Your body is designed to decay. (2 Cor. 4.16)
2. **ECCLESIASTES 3.20:** *"All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust."*

#### II. JESUS GREW SPIRITUALLY

##### A. LUKE 2.40: *"...and became strong in spirit"*

1. The spirit refers to the inner man. (2 cor. 6.14)
2. The inner man is the person of the heart referring to attitude, emotions, and character. (Prov. 4.23; John 4.23)

##### B. Your heart needs to be a part of your faith.

1. Doctrine is important, but do we put too much emphasis on doctrine? (2 Thess. 2.10; 1 Tim. 4.13; Jude 3)
2. Just as much should be on the heart. (Matt. 15.8)

##### C. Your heart need to be guided by truth.

1. **ROMANS 10.1:** Israel was lost.
2. **ROMANS 10.2,3:** *"they had a zeal for God, but..."*

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus is the reason for grace. (Eph. 2.5-10)

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*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

**November 4, 2018**

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

## THE PURE IN HEART

Christians desire to be pure in heart. When the Bible refers to the heart, it is usually not describing the blood pump. The heart of man is the center of man. It represents the essence of man, the origin of our personality. It is where we think, feel, and decide.

The heart is not always good. Jesus warned that the heart is the source of sin (Matt. 15.18,19). All sin comes from the heart, and all good comes from the heart. It is the fountainhead of everything (Prov. 4.23). Thus we look at ourselves and our compulsions and impulses and wonder if it is ever possible for our hearts to be pure (Job 15.14-16). Yet if we are to have any confidence in the word of God, then we know that a pure heart is possible (Matt. 5.8).

Not only is a pure heart possible, but it is critical. Jesus tells us that the pure in heart *"shall see God."* To see God is to know Him and have a relationship with Him. That cannot be possible without a pure heart. Peter tells Christians that *"you have purified your souls in obeying the truth."* We became pure when we obeyed the gospel. John explains that someday we will be transformed into the image of Christ. Since we have this hope, we purify ourselves (1 John 3.2,3). This hope of heaven and being with Christ is only available to those who purify themselves.

Therefore we must examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor. 13.5). We always ought to consider our hearts and be sure to have a heart that is pure. CLP

## JESUS HELPS THE TEMPTED

### MARK 5:7

#### INTRODUCTION: [READ MARK 5.1-20]

1. Jesus was in the region of Gadarenes where he met a man who was possessed by demons. (Mark 5.1; Matt. 8.28)
2. The account in each of the gospels presents a unique view.
  - a) Matthew's account presents antisocial demons. (Matt. 8.28)
  - b) Mark's account presents violent demons. (Mark 5.4)
  - c) Luke's account presents immoral demons. (Luke 8.27)
3. An interesting lesson from these demons. Consider

#### I. THE DEMONS WERE AFRAID OF JESUS

- A. Jesus intimidated the demons.
  1. A conversation takes place between Jesus and the demons. (Mark 5.7; Matt. 8.29; Luke 8.28)
  2. The demons ran to Jesus and fell down to worship Him. (Mark 5.6; Luke 8.28; cf. James 2.19)
  3. The demons pleaded with Jesus not to be cast into the abyss. (Mark 5.7; Matt. 8.31; Luke 8.31; cf. 2 Pet. 2.4)
- B. Jesus eliminated the demons.
  1. They called themselves "Legion", a roman military unit of six thousand soldiers. (Mark 5.9)
  2. Jesus gave them permission to enter the swine numbering two thousand. (Mark 5.11-13)

#### II. THE DEMONS ARE AFRAID OF US

- A. The demons are intimidated by us. (James 4.4-10)
  1. The demons are intimidated because God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are with us. (James 4.5,6,10)
  2. For them to be with us, there are some things we must do. (James 4.8-10)
- B. The demons are eliminated by us. (Rom. 6.1-9)
  1. Sin has been eliminated from my life. (Rom. 6.1,2)
  2. Sin was eliminated when we were baptized. (Rom. 6.3,4)
  3. Sin is now no longer in control. (Rom. 6.5-9)
- C. Sin has been eliminated from...
  1. My past. (Heb. 8.12; 10.2)
  2. My present. (1 John 2.1; 1 Cor. 10.13; Heb. 2.18)

**CONCLUSION:** Has sin been eliminated from your life?

- d) He prayed just before He breathed His last. (Luke 23.46)

## TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

It is a blessing to take responsibility for our sinful actions. It is only when we acknowledge that we have sinned that we will then be inclined to change our behavior and not do it again (2 Cor. 7.10). There are notable exceptions, but in general, if one is never held accountable for what he has done then he will never be motivated to change.

The disposition to divert responsibility and blame others is seen in the very beginning. Man had not existed for every long before the words came out of Adam's mouth, "*the woman whom You gave to me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate*" (Gen. 3.12). After he had sinned, Adam blamed his wife and at the same time blamed God for giving him this woman. He refused to take responsibility for himself.

We tend to blame everyone and everything except ourselves. We blame the way we were raised. We blame our spouses. We blame the influence of social media. While it is true that we can be influenced to think and act a certain way, it does not take away from our responsibility.

We have been created in such a way that we can choose our own course and determine our own actions. There is nothing that can force us to do anything that is different than what we want to do. Not even God will interfere with our decisions even if they lead us down the path of destruction (Rom. 1.24-28). He will plead with us. He will beg us to turn from our evil ways, but He will not prevent us or stop of from ruining our lives if we so choose (Ezek. 33.11; 2 Cor. 5.20). There is no one to blame for our decisions except ourselves.

This is such an important lesson to learn for the younger generation. The younger generation has been under their parents care who have made many of their decisions for them. Now that they are older and are making their own decisions, they still like to look back and blame their parents for their mistakes. "My parents were too strict." "My parents were not affectionate enough." "My parents never listened to me." All of that may be true, but it does not give you license to do whatever you want to do. It can never excuse sinful behavior.

Do not be one who never takes responsibility for your actions. Becoming a mature and responsible person (Ezek. 18.20). CLP