

“For They Shall All Know Me”

Developing a New Covenant Relationship with God

Spring 2016 / Sunday AM Bible Study



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Lesson 11. From The Least To The Greatest

An English breakfast



God wants a relationship with people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, **from the least of them to the greatest**, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Goals

- Review the separation that existing under the Old Law between God and His people
- Appreciate the breadth of people that make up the New Testament church
- Propose godly ways we can enhance the inclusiveness of the Lord's church

The tabernacle separated the Israelites from God

Heb. 9:1-14

- ▶ The presence of God was in the Most Holy Place
- ▶ Even the high priest went in only once per year
- ▶ Gifts and sacrifices were offered that could not clean the conscience of the worshipers
- ▶ Regular people could never go in.

Jesus opened the way

Heb. 10:19-22

- ▶ We now have confidence to enter the most holy place.
- ▶ We should draw near to God with a full assurance of faith

Jesus opened the way for everyone

Eph. 3:6

- ▶ The mystery of the gospel is that Gentiles can be God's people.
- ▶ We are all...
 - ▶ fellow heirs
 - ▶ members of the same body
 - ▶ partakers of the promise
- ▶ The church is (and should be) made up of all sorts of people

Early or Late

Matt. 20:1-16

- ▶ Every Christian gets heaven as their reward, whether they obeyed the gospel early in life, or later.
- ▶ Avoid saying, “Why can’t they just get it together?”
- ▶ You don’t want a congregation made entirely of ‘mature’ Christians.

Rich or Poor

James 2:1-7

- ▶ Don't favor people just because they appear wealthy.
- ▶ Don't avoid people who are dressed poorly.

Educated or uneducated

I Cor. 1:26-28

- ▶ Not many Corinthian Christians were from upper social classes. (But, they were in Philippi)
- ▶ True Christianity is never going to be followed by the majority.
- ▶ Our appeal and power lies in spiritual authority not worldly wisdom.

Christians are each part of a body, and work toward unity.

Eph. 4:1-16

- ▶ We share one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God
- ▶ What unites us is greater than what could divide us.
- ▶ God has given Christians to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, teachers.
- ▶ What else?

Don't allow culture to separate you

James 2:1-7

- ▶ Don't offend others.
- ▶ Don't be easily offended.
- ▶ Resist the urge to be friends with only those 'like' you.
- ▶ Try to recognize cultural traditions vs. Biblical authority.

What areas could we improve on to increase the inclusiveness of the Lord's church?

- ▶ Talk with everyone.
- ▶ Go to group meetings.
- ▶ Have people over to your house.
- ▶ ...

From the Least to the Greatest

God has removed His separation from us.

- ▶ Regular people could never go into the physical tabernacle.
- ▶ Now *everyone* can draw near to God through Jesus.
- ▶ The church is made up of all sort of people.

Embrace the cultural breadth of the New Testament church.

- ▶ Heaven is our common reward.
- ▶ Don't favor people just because they appear wealthy.
- ▶ Our power lies in spiritual authority not worldly wisdom.

Find godly ways to enhance our inclusiveness

- ▶ Unity in the gospel is greater than cultural differences.
- ▶ Don't offend or be easily offended.
- ▶ Do things with Christians outside of worship.