

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Dec 2016 ..... Joshua 1:1-18
- 2) 11 Dec ..... Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
- 3) 18 Dec ..... Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
- 4) 25 Dec ..... Christmas Message Luke 1:26-38
- 5) 01 Jan 2017 ..... Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
- 6) 08 Jan ..... Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
- 7) 15 Jan ..... Sanctity of Life Prov 24:10-12; Mark 10:46-49
- 8) 22 Jan ..... Judges 1:1 – 5:31
- 9) 29 Jan ..... Judges 6:1 – 12:15
- 10) 05 Feb ..... Judges 13:1 – 16:31
- 11) 12 Feb ..... Judges 17:1 – 21:25
- 12) 19 Feb ..... Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
- 13) 26 Feb ..... Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

INTRODUCTION

- **Sanctity of Life.** God holds us accountable if we put our heads in the sand on life issues such as abortion and failure to look after weaker members in society.
- **Value of Life.** Our value of life should match God's perspective. Yet, God has no problem with the following:
  - ♦ He wiped out the human race except for Noah's family (8)
  - ♦ He wiped out Sodom & Gomorrah
  - ♦ He told the Israelites to annihilate the Canaanites – men, women, and children..... Deut 2:34
  - ♦ He nearly wiped out the Israelites – only a remnant were spared (and God did this twice – Babylonian captivity ~ 500 B.C, and Roman dispersion ~ 70 A.D.)
  - ♦ God shows no mercy to widows & orphans who are wicked. Is 9:17
  - ♦ **The common denominator is in the level of wickedness**
    - If a nation is unjust and oppresses the weak (widows, orphans, poor, and foreigners), and even condones child sacrifice – then watch out for God's wrath .....Zech 7:9-14
- God has a soft spot for weak members of society, & so should we
  - ♦ We need to know who to help, when to help, how to help, and how intensely to help
  - ♦ Do we throw a token quarter at the problem, or do we open up our doors & wallets to bed, clothe, mend & feed? .... Jms 2:15-17
  - ♦ Do we just give them our prayers or do we make a trip to the abortion clinic to protest..... Ps 82:3-4, Pr 24:11
  - ♦ Who should we not help? It is vain to help those who are foolish, lazy, angry, or wicked ..... Pr 19:19; 2Thes 3:10
  - The biblical course of action is to patiently wait for them to come to their senses like the prodigal son..... Luke 15:17
  - ♦ BUT, we are to find opportunities to help our enemies with the basics of life, assuming they are not prodigal..... Pr 25:21-22

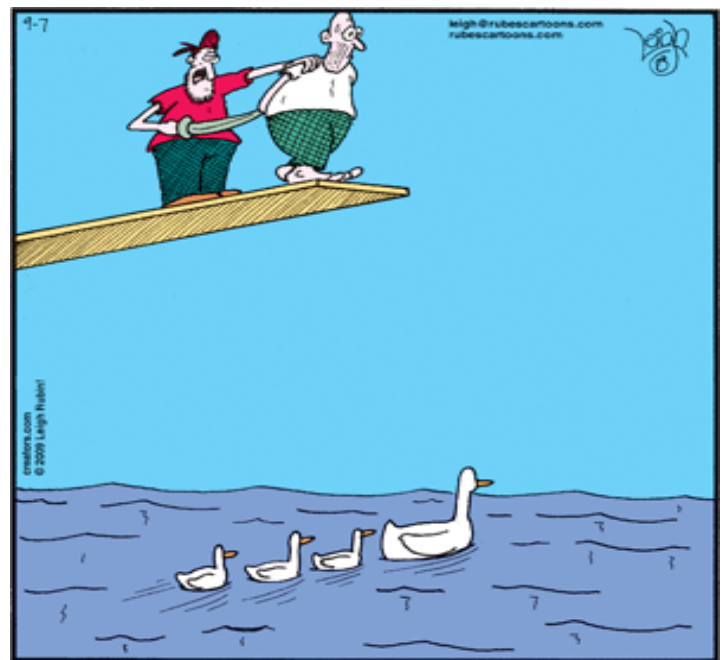
Passage	Comments
Mark 10:46-49	<p><b>Jesus Takes Interest in the Sick and Handicapped</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We may not have the ability today to instantaneously and supernaturally restore someone's life or health as Jesus and His disciples once did, but do we show grace, mercy, tenderness, and love to those hurting?</li> <li>• Healings don't always need a miracle – sometimes a touch, a kind word, a prayer, or other act of kindness works wonders</li> <li>• Luke 14:13-14. When you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous</li> </ul>

RELEVANT PASSAGES

- Deut 2:34. And utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city,
- Zech 7:9-12. Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying, execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother: And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. But they refused to hearken, ... therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts.
- Ps 82:3-4. Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy.
- Pr 19:19. A hot-tempered man (or any other type of fool) must pay the penalty; if you rescue him once, you will have to do it again.
- Pr 25:21-22. If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ... and the LORD will reward you.
- 2Thes 3:10. ... If a man will not work, he shall not eat.
- James 2:15-17. Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**NEXT WEEK – Judges 1-3a.** Because of sin, God curtailed His blessings for Israel and allowed several Canaanite people groups to remain in the land as a test of their loyalty to Him

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 24:10-12	<p><b>Are we Passive or do we have a BACKBONE?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v10. "If you are slack in the day of distress, your strength is limited." God tells us throughout Scripture, especially to men, to grow a backbone, be a man, have some guts, be brave, and do the right thing every time and in every situation – BUT do we?</li> <li>• v11. "Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to slaughter, hold back."                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What can we do about this? How do we do this? Where do we do this? When should we do it?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v12. "If you say, 'See, we did not know this,' Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?"                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We have no excuse. Over 60 million babies have been aborted since 1973 in the U.S. (~4,000/day)</li> <li>♦ Have we even written our legislators even once?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



**"Not so fast, ya scurvy dog! Have you no respect for the sanctity of life?!"**