

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

THE RIGHT THING – Part II

Luke 12:58-59 “As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

Jesus here used a legal action with which His listeners were familiar. One to whom a debt was owed could take their debtor before a judge. The judge tried to force the debtor to pay their debt or he ordered him put into prison until he paid his debt. Once in prison, the possibility of paying the debt was nil!

The point of Jesus' teaching is at their death God will judge all human beings. It is imperative that they therefore go before God while they are still able to get rid of the charges that are against them. Jesus had told His listeners previously their debts could be removed by God's promised Messiah. They continued to refuse to accept Him as the one appointed by God to remove their guilt. Jesus said that the law would take its course and like the penniless debtor the judge would render his final judgment. There would be no possible escape once condemned by the judge.

The Bible says, “it is appointed unto man once to die, then the judgement.” (Hebrews 9:27) Thankfully, though a sinner, you have a mediator to plead your case before God and to see to it that God's charges against you are withdrawn. 1 Timothy 2:3-6 states this clearly, “God our Savior. . .desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all. . .”

Through Jesus your debt has been paid. Romans 4:20-25 “. . . (Abraham) grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” **But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses**

and raised for our justification.” You have Jesus’ promise, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16)

Prayer: Lord, send Your Spirit to give me faith in the right message, to put me on the one and only path that leads to heaven. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my gilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus, All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem
I lay my griefs o Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I lay my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.
(LSB 606)