



Follow the Cloud

September 21/24 – Valley Creek Church-Pastor John Stickl

Lesson #6 Scripture Verses from John's Outline

“Spiritual Growth Helps”

Lesson #6 – Follow The Cloud – Scripture Verses/Comments and Review Questions Prepared by Salt Shakin Sister Outreach & Ministry: www.saltshakinsister.com

Key Verse: Lamentations 3:40

Mark 4:13-20

Matthew 28:18-20 & 4:19

Lamentations 3:40 (NLT) (2 Corinthians 13:5 same reference)

⁴⁰ Instead, let us test and examine our ways. Let us turn back to the LORD.

- **Test** -Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world- **1John 4:1**
- **Examine**-Test me, LORD, and try me, **examine my heart and my mind**; **Psalms 26:2**
 - **Examine yourselves** to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the **test?**- **2 Corinthians 13:5** - In his final words to this group of believers Paul was challenging them to test themselves and examine their hearts and behaviors, to see if they were truly living the life of faith. These believers were encouraged to examine their hearts to be sure that their faith was founded on Christ and that their witness was true and not counterfeit. *There are a number of ways that each one of us can examine our own spiritual lives* - and perhaps the most important is the witness of the indwelling Holy Spirit with our born-again spirit, as we cry out to the Lord, search me oh God and know my heart. Examine me and see if there is any false spirituality lurking within my inner being.

We should not be examining the spirituality of others, for only God knows their hearts but there are many ways that we can examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. Are we walking in spirit and truth? Have we come apart and separated ourselves from the world's enticements and the lusts of the fleshly? Is our heart cry, that I may know Christ and abide in Him and do we desire that Christ may live in me so that I may walk in His love?

- **Turn back to God**-But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are **turning back to those weak and miserable forces**? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? **Galatians 4:9**

Mark 4:13-20 (NLT)

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?”

¹⁴ The farmer plants seed **by taking God’s word to others**. ¹⁵ The *seed that fell on the footpath* represents those who *hear the message*, only to have *Satan come at once and take it away*. (Someone who feels bad about their sin, and hears the message but not ready to “give up” their sinful life-satan still has a stronghold on them”)

¹⁶ The *seed on the rocky soil* represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ **But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long.** *They fall away as soon as they have problems or* are persecuted for believing God’s word. (Someone who may be in a real bad place in their lives and really need some help will cry out to God and have the attitude “If you do this God I will never do this and that again!” They receive what the word says because it gives them hope and a way out of their problems. But because they don’t give their heart to Jesus, they have no roots (no Jesus, no Holy Spirit) AND if they did have Jesus in their hearts and did get persecuted, they would stand their ground for Jesus no matter what!)

¹⁸ The *seed that fell among the thorns* represents others who hear God’s word, ¹⁹ but **all too quickly** the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the *desire for other things*, **so no fruit is produced**. (Someone who hears the word but once again, no root, not ready to invite Jesus into their lives because of the desires for the carnal and sinful things in their lives, they are still believing the lies of the devil that life is good and if they give up, they won’t be able to do whatever they want anymore, they don’t want to give it up!)

²⁰ And the **seed that fell on good soil** *represents those who **hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest** of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had **been planted!*** (Praise Jesus! We are good soil when we hear the word and ask Jesus into our hearts and receive His Holy Spirit and power; we want to obey the word and walk in freedom from bondage and sinful slavery-we become children and friends of God- Daughters of the Most High-Abba Father-now we "want to give up", and "give in". As we continually grow spiritually, we sow seeds into others' lives, see lives changed and bear fruit. Reap what you sow. Each of us have a different calling, so the harvest we see in our lives will vary depending on what we do with Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Psalm 119:59 (NLT)

⁵⁹ I **pondered** the **direction of my life**, and **I turned** to **follow your laws**.

- Ponder-meditate-think upon what the scriptures say when you read and study them.
- Seek God's direction in your life with prayer and study-look out specific scriptures for those issues you need help.
- Turn to God in times of need NOT to counterfeit and temporary relieve that may gratify the flesh and make you feel better for a short time.
- Follow -obey Gods Word- This book has all the answers for all our problems. You just have to be diligent to seek them out.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus **came** and **told** his disciples, "I have been given **all authority** in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ **Teach** these **new disciples** to **obey** all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, "Come, **follow me**, and **I will show you** **how to** fish for people!"

Lesson #6 – Review Questions

1. What are the four additional verses we researched to gain more understanding of Lamentations 3:40?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. What are the 3 main things we are told to do in Lamentations?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. What do you think of when you see the word “test” in this verse? _____

4. What do you think of when you see the phrase: “Examine yourselves”? _____

5. What verse was the reference to “turning back to God” in our study verses? _____
6. If we turn back, what happens to us in Galatians 4:9? _____
7. What are the are the four pathways where the seed fell?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

8. What happens in verse 18? _____

9. What are the four things Psalms 119:59 tells us to do?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

10. What did Jesus do in Matthew 28:18-20 AND how can we apply this to our personal lives? _____

11. What did Jesus say in Matthew 4:19 in your own words AND how should we apply this to our lives? _____

