

The Christmas Carol

Part Two: *losses & regrets*

December 11, 2022

This month, I am giving you some life lessons from two bestselling books – Charles Dickens masterpiece A Christmas Carol and God’s masterpiece the Bible. In this message series, I want to move you spiritually and move you to help the poor and powerless in your community.

In Stave Two of A Christmas Carol... The first spirit shows Scrooge scenes from his past Christmas’s. First, Scrooge is shown his boarding school, then he is shown his beloved sister Fan coming to bring him home. Next Scrooge is taken to a Christmas party hosted by his first employer, Mr. Fezziwig, who treated him like a son. Then, the spirit shows Scrooge how his love for money caused his fiancée Belle to end their engagement. Finally, the spirit takes Scrooge to visit a now-married Belle with her large, happy family. Scrooge gets so upset when he sees what he lost that he demands the spirit take him home immediately.

- The purpose of the Ghost of Christmas Past is to show Scrooge his wrong choices and the losses he suffered because of his wrong choices.
- Scrooge is like the foolish man Jesus describes in Matthew 7:24-29 that built his house (life) on the wrong foundation.

So, after talking about two different roads, two different prophets, and two different believers, Jesus concludes his sermon by talking about two different ways of living. Christ says a person that chooses to build their life on His teaching will endure any storm that comes their way. But a person that chooses to build their life on teaching from sinful, ignorant, untrustworthy men and women will drown when storms flood their life.

- Scrooge chose to build his life on sand instead of on Jesus - the Solid Rock!

What do you need to do to build your life on Jesus – the Solid Rock?

1st - You must choose to repent. 2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow includes repentance and moves you away from sin and closer to God, but worldly sorrow lacks repentance and moves you away from God and closer to sin!

2nd – You must choose to follow Jesus through life. Luke 9:23

To follow Christ each day, you will have to give up your plans and priorities and let Jesus lead you where He wants you to go.

What is the life lesson you need to take home today?

- You must learn from your regrets to avoid making more regrets.

Dickens used his second stave to show us how Scrooge’s wrong choices cost him dearly. He wants us to examine ourselves to see if we are building our life on the right foundation.

Some Personal Questions...

1. *Do you value relationships more than money and possessions?*
2. *When was the last time you thought about how much your wrong choices have cost you?*
3. *Are you building any part of your life on sand?*