

Put God First

Part 3

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

Putting God first and not other things is our discretion and our own decision to keep aside worldly things in order for us to concentrate on God and what He wants us to do for Him and how He wants us to behave for His own sake:

7- Anger: *“⁴⁹ When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.⁵¹ But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.” (Luke 22:49-51)* Anger is another matter that hinder from serving the Lord. The disciples of Jesus when they faced with the soldiers who came to arrest Jesus they got anger and had short temper and reacted and cut the ear of the servant of the high priest. That did not help the Lord but it added trouble to Him, more to what He needed to bear in that situation. The attitude and the behaviour of the disciples showed also that they are not a good testimony or a good example to be followed.

Anger is an attitude problem and those who still express anger in their decisions and actions will continually be led to do impulsive reactions that will not bring the righteous life that God desire. *“⁴⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (James 1:19-21)* Anger comes from the world and the moral filth of this world. So those who still have outburst of anger they are still having the world in them. So if you still have anger and react badly to events around you then you need to allow the Holy Spirit to check you and see what the moral filth that you are exposed to is. For example: bad friends, watching TV and Movies, attending parties, etc. As you will be recognizing what are the things that bring anger into your life, then you are called to repent of them and allow The Word of God and The Holy Spirit to cleanse you from anger and all filthiness that attribute to it.

8- Rebelliousness: *“⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs?" (Luke 22:52)* Jesus asked the chief priest *“Am I leading a rebellion.”* The truth that what the disciples did is considered rebelliousness. They showed defiance to what was going on. Yes true that there was injustice toward Jesus and His mission but the way the disciples acted is not proper for Jesus mission.

To follow Christ you will be exposed to injustice as what Jesus exposed to. But you need to face it with a proper way and as the following:

A- Accept the fact that in Christ you would be facing injustice in the form of insult, abuse, your rights being withhold, etc. Good number who truly set their hearts to serve Christ they are still not accepting that injustice is part of the call that Jesus called us to respond for.

B- Do not react to it or showed you are disturb of because this is normal. But be happy and rejoice *“²² Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.” (Luke 6:22-23)*

C- Do not think to take revenge, *“¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.” (Romans 12:18-19)*

D- Pray and ask God what you need to do, *“Pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:28b)*

E- Listen to God and apply and do what God is telling you to do, *“²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:20-21)*

9- Do not trust man: *“⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.⁵⁵ But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.” (Luke 22:54-55)* Peter was following at a distance the steps of Jesus and he sat down with the temple guards when they kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard. Peter sat down with them to get warm by the fire they kindled. And we knew that Peter at that spot denied Christ. The point that we want to make clear here is that no man can help you and support your needs. Those who serve God but they still keep people thinking that those people will help them in times of need, this thinking is not correct. Those same people whom you put first in your life, thinking that they will help you, they are the very people who will put you down and makes you fall. Trusting men and people will make you keep contact and connection with them thinking that once you will need them they will help you. This will entail that you will revere them, serve them and show them additional respect because you think they will help you. As if they will become your gods and idols that you serve. The word of God tells us the following: *“⁵ This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD.⁶ He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.⁷ "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.⁸ He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:5-8)* *“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.” (Proverbs 29:25)*

My Dear and Beloved: *“⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)* Trust God and not rely on yourself. Yes you love God but the Lord has His own ways to do things. And that what you need to understand and agree therefore to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . Lord I trust you and I will rely on your ways. Renew my mind and transform me in the way that you want me to be. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*