

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 11

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled:” (Matthew 5:6 KJV)

We continue in this message to study on how we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

We learn about the righteousness of God from the following:

I. We learn from the life of Jesus Christ who teaches us how to hunger and thirst for righteousness: Jesus is our ultimate example of righteousness, and as we look deeply into His life and into His saying, and on what He did, we learn what God is requiring from us to live a righteous life that God desires. In any situation that you put in and you don't know how to act and what to do, ask yourself *‘If Jesus is in the same situation, what He is going to do?’* When you answer this question then you will know what to do.

II. We learn from the Scriptures that teach us how to hunger and thirst for righteousness: *The Scripture teach us how to hunger and thirst for righteousness and will confirm to us what filling and satisfaction we will receive from God as we delight in His righteousness. Therefore we read the Bible daily so we will be reminded about what we need to do and act in various aspects of our lives and in various circumstances that we are put in.*

III. We learn to hunger and thirst for righteousness from the examples of righteous men in the Bible:

Speaking about doing what is right, or the righteous things that God wants us to do, let us meditate on the following:

“9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” (1 John 3:9-13 KJV)

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” (1 John 3:9 KJV) Those who are born of God they will not insist to live in a sin, in a way that God would contradict; that because the seed of God, His Word is remaining in them. They cannot go on and continue sinning. God will make a way that He will reveal the sin of the person and He will cause him or cause her to come to repentance. *Ask yourself now, ‘Is the Word of God and His seed remains in your life?’ ‘Are you turning away from your sins and your wrong doings?’*

“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.” (1 John

3:10 KJV) Here speaks about the two different manifestations, the first one are the children of God and the second are the children of devil. The children of Devil are characterized by two things:

1. ***“Whosoever doeth not righteousness.”*** The children of devil are those who do not do what God had said and recommend in His Word, and those who disobey the voice of God when He speaks to them, and refuse to hearken to God and achieve His requests.
2. ***“He that loveth not his brother.”*** The children of devil are those who do not love their brothers. Here we need to understand from the Scripture what it really means of the person who will not love His brother in Christ.

“For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.” (1 John 3:11 KJV) The message of God to us is to love one another. Now we know the Scripture that define love and shows the characteristics of the person who truly has the love of God, and we are called to be compelled to have these characteristics of love: ***“4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.” (1 Corinthians 7:4-7 KJV)*** The Word ‘charity’, here is used to describe love. The characteristics of love in brief is the following:

1. ***Suffereth long:*** Willing to suffer for Christ and for others; non willing to give up but to continue to persevere inspite of pain and suffering. *Are you a person who is easily give up? If you are a person who is easily give up, then, keep on exercise patience and perseverance through the trials that God allowed you to pass through.*
2. ***Kind:*** Kindness, is the willingness to do the good work of God to others and perform to them services that will aid them in their lives. *Do your best to work and to do good things that God had asked you to do in the life of the people around you.*
3. ***Envieth not:*** It means not to be jealous of others when they have things you do not have, or when they have things better than what you have.
4. ***Vaunteth not itself:*** It means it is not boasting, and not self display. *If you are a person who love to show off, then you need to repent of that, and please consider that there will be people better than yourself.*
5. ***Is not puffed up:*** It means it is not to be proud. *If you are a person with high self esteem, then you need to humble down and repent of your puff up.*
6. ***Doth not behave itself unseemly:*** It means it is not acting improperly. The word ‘unseemly,’ the Greek word of it is ‘Aschemoneo’, is repeated in one more other place, ***“But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.” (1 Corinthians 7:36 KJV)*** Here what we can understand that love does not

do something improper and do not miss to do the things that are proper. Check yourself now and see if you are doing things that is not proper and repent of them.

7. **Seeketh not her own:** It means it is not selfish. Do not think about your interest only, but the interest of others as well.

8. **Is not easily provoked:** It means it is not easily angered. You should know how to control yourself while you are angry, and not to react or do something that brings disturbance and distractions to others.

9. **Thinketh no evil:** It means to be pure in mind; you should have a mind that is clean and not planning or thinking evil toward others.

10. **Rejoiceth not in iniquity:** It means it is not happy or glad to do bad and evil things to others. Even when the Lord punish our enemies still he does not want us to rejoice over them.

11. **Rejoiceth in the truth:** It means is to be glad to discover and know the truth. We need to study the Word of God in the Bible so that we can discover the truth, so we will know how to live for God in obeying His Word.

12. **Beareth all things:** It means we should be willing to persevere to bear the pressure of life and the ministry of God.

13. **Believeth all things:** It means it is the willingness to believe what God's Word reveal and show. It means also to be willing to believe what Jesus's Word and life reveal and show.

14. **Hopeth all things:** It means it is expressing the trust on God and having the hope that God will turn things for better on your behalf as you are willing to obey and follow God. It means it is expressing the trust on God and having the hope that God will turn things for better on our behalf as we are willing to obey and follow God.

15. **Endureth all things:** It means to remain steadfast, even if you are left alone. There may be a time that no one will be left with you and you are alone. These are painful moments, but still, at these moments God wants you to endure and persevere till the end even if you are alone.

Now let's go back and check how many of these points you have in your character and your attitude in life and in your relationships with other people around you. Check yourself as we go through these characters of love:

*Suffereth long-willing to suffer
Kind-willing to do good as God ordained
Envieth not-not having jealousy
Vaunteth not yourself-not boastful
Is not puffed up-not proud
Doth not behave itself unseemly-not acting improperly*

*Seeketh not your own-not being selfish
Is not easily provoked-not easily angered
Thinketh no evil-having pure heart and pure mind
Rejoiceth not in iniquity-not happy to think evil toward others
Rejoiceth in the truth-glad on the truth of God's Word
Beareth all things-willing to bear the pressure of life and ministry
Believeth all things-to believe on what the Word of God declares
Hopeth all things-trusting God and rely on Him
Endureth all things-to stand firm to the end even if you are alone*

Now write down what you don't have of these 15 characters and start to pray daily for yourself and confess your sins to God and ask Him to change you and add to you what you lack of these good characters.

*Suffereth long-willing to suffer
Kind-willing to do good as God ordained
Envieth not-not having jealousy
Vaunteth not yourself-not boastful
Is not puffed up-not proud
Doth not behave itself unseemly-not acting improperly
Seeketh not your own-not being selfish
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Endureth all things-to stand firm to the end even if you are alone*

Now let us move to continue to speak about love and let us see how we will love our brothers:

Love compels us to abstain from other sinful things, "8 *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.* 9 *For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* 10 *Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*" (Romans 13:8-10 KJV) To express love to our neighbours and to our brethren we need to abstain from the following acts:

1. **Adultery:** Extramarital affairs, including lust in the heart.

2. **Murder:** Killing human being. Anger without cause or anger bigger than the cause is also a murder. "21 *Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the*

judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.” (Matthew 5:21-22 KJV)

3. Stealing: Taking things not belonging to you and without the permission of others.

4. False witnessing: Speaking non correct things against an innocent person.

5. Covet: To desire the things of others to be given to you.

What we discussed is what the Scriptures would teach us of how to have the characters of love and what are the things that we should refrain to do, and what are the righteous things that we need to do and observe.

Now when we go and read the Scripture, **“11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.” (1 John 3:11-12 KJV)** Here the Word of God describes Cain as a person **who was of that wicked one**, who has the seed of the Devil who slew his brother. Now why Cain killed Abel? **And wherefore slew he him?** This is the full answer

- **Because his own works were evil:** He was not willing to give to God what is due to God. He was not willing to give to God his first fruit. People who are doing evil are not willing to give to God their lives, their hearts, their plans, their desires, their ambitions, their best, and their first fruits; for they are not willing to put God first in their lives.
- **Because his brother's righteous:** Now here God's Word describes Abel as a righteous man and that is why Cain went ahead and killed him. The righteous thing that the Scriptures describes what Abel did is his giving of His first fruit to God. He was willing to give all to God; his life, his heart, his plans, his desires, his ambitions, His best, his first fruits, and he was willing to be persecuted and killed for his faith and for his stand with God.

Those who are like Cain, not only they don't have the characters of love that we described; not only they do evil things, but in addition to that, they will try their best to put off and persecute those who are willing to give all to God.

I am more humbled and ashamed when I come to know that someone is giving better of what I give to God. I learn from such examples, and I endeavor to learn more from our Lord Jesus Christ of how He gave all to God.

My dear and beloved: “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” (1 John 3:13 KJV) *If we want to be righteous before God, if we want to hunger and thirst for righteousness and to be called righteous people, we should in addition of having the above characteristics of love, refraining from doing evil, putting God first, giving our lives, our hearts, our plans, our desires, our ambitions, our best, and our first fruits, we*

need as well as to be willing to be hated by the world around us and to be hated and abused by people like Cain.

We will truly need now the characters of love that we had discussed in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** so that we can endure and to continue to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and the Lord shall fill us.

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 death on the third day to give me eternal life.*

Lord forgives me my sins _____.

Let us confess and renounce our sins to the Lord. Let us confess and renounce all our pride, anger, impatient, unforgiveness, jealousy, envy, lust, fighting, quarrels, and the rest of our wrong ways of life and our non willingness to follow the ways of God because of our wrong priorities and practices.

If you have not yet received Christ as Saviour and Lord over your life, then now is the time for you to open your heart and your life to Him and ask Him to come and be the Lord over your heart and your life. You need to surrender your life fully to Him and to take Him as Saviour and Lord over your life.

Let us ask God to give us what we lack of the followings:

*Suffereth long-willing to suffer
Kind-willing to do good as God ordained
Envieth not-not having jealousy
Vaunteth not yourself-not boastful
Is not puffed up-not proud
Doth not behave itself unseemly-not acting improperly
Seeketh not your own-not being selfish
Is not easily provoked-not easily angered
Thinketh no evil-having pure heart and pure mind
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Endureth all things-to stand firm to the end even if you are alone*

Let us work with God to let all these characters of love to appear in our lives, in our attitudes and in our relationships with one another and with the people around us, and that is one of the way that we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Lord I thank you for your Word to me that show me what I lack and what I need to work on and how to hunger and to thirst after your righteousness. Lord I am willing to offer my life fully to you as a living sacrifice, and Lord I am willing to be changed and to be the person that you wants me to be, a channel of blessings, to other people around me.

Lord I commit myself to give you my heart, my life and my first fruit to you. Lord let your love and care flow through me to the people around me.

Lord I commit my life to be willing to suffer for you and even to be persecuted for your name sake. Lord I commit my life to be set a good example to others, that they may see you through my life. Lord gives me more fruit of the Holy Spirit so that I can persevere more in obeying your Word.

Lord fills me with the Holy Spirit and gives to me the spiritual gifts that I need to go and evangelize and to make new disciples. Lord protects me and provides all my needs so I can continue to go on and serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to learn how to love others and how to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Lord protects them and provides all their needs. Lord change their characters and attitudes and Lord fills them once again with the Holy Spirit and makes their lives testimony attractive to others so that people will believe in you and start to follow you and live according to your Word and your righteousness.

Lord I pray for us as a church to help us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord we commit ourselves to do what is right and just in your eyes. Lord helps us to love others more and to be channels of love to the community and the people around us. Lord continues to reveal your will to us and your righteousness so we will continue to declare your righteous acts to all the nations and the people around us. Lord transform our lives and fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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