

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 30

“9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God:” (Matthew 5:9 KJV)

We will continue to study ***Matthew 10*** to discover more clearly what Jesus meant with the peacemakers and how He wants us to live our lives for Him:

“16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16 KJV) “Behold, I send you forth, as sheep among wolves:” Jesus compares His apostles to the sheep, because they need to be meek and humble in their spirits, harmless, and inoffensive, in their lives and conversations; were weak, and unable to protect themselves, and were sent out by Him unarmed and defenceless; sheep even cannot bite, and their oppressors and persecutors are compared to wolves, because they are fierce, furious, voracious, ravenous, cruel and hurtful to sheep; wherefore Christ gives them this wholesome advice: ***“Ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”*** *We are called to be humble as sheep, willing to minister to bad people (wolves) and bring the good news to them.*

“Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” *We are called to be harmless as doves in heart, yet as subtle as serpents among the nations of the world.* The serpent is a very sharp sighted, cunning creature, and uses various arts and strategy for its own preservation, and especially it uses its head. Snake is so far to be imitated by the followers of Christ, as to make use of all proper methods to preserve themselves from the insults and rage of men, and not expose themselves to unnecessary dangers: and, as much as in their hands, they should be careful to give no just occasion of offence, or irritate, and provoke evil doers so they will not harm them. *We as sheep of the Lord Jesus Christ we should avoid all snares and traps that are laid for us; and, at the same time, we are called to maintain the innocence and harmlessness of the dove, being free from all wicked cunning and craftiness, without resentment, bitterness, animosity, ill will, malice, and wrath; not meditating and seeking revenge, but meek and humble, leading inoffensive lives, and proceeding in the course of our calling.*

As disciples of the Lord, though we are liable to many insults, and much oppression, we are called to be wise as snake, to do all what we can to protect ourselves, and not to provoke others. We are called to be like dove that are harmless, of clean hearts, and of no evil toward others.

We need to do the mission of the Lord in a programmed way. We need to go to do the work with our spiritual gifts, to heal the sick, drive out demons, cleanse people from their leprosy, to cleanse them from sins and things that had isolated them from coming to God, to raise the dead either literally or to bring life to people who has lost life and light by bringing the message and the plan of God to them.

We need to find a worthy people and work with them. We need to give the exact message, we need to receive from people of what we are worthy to receive. We need not to compromise even if people hate us and ill treat us. We need to bear persecution, abuse and hatred and we need to shake off our feet from the dust as a sign against

them, and we need to be as harmless as dove and clean heart even toward the people who harm us and ill treat us.

“17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues.” (Matthew 10:17 KJV) But beware of men: Jesus is warning us from men and their spite and conspiracy. Therefore we need to put our trust more on God and on His Word and on His promises. He warned His apostles that they will be persecuted and be handed over to the councils of the Jewish and to their synagogues and they will be ill treated, rejected, beaten, scorched, taken away their privileges and got isolated. *One of the way of persecution is taken away privileges and isolations. We in many places had been taken away our privileges and had been blocked to be forced to go along the wrong doings. That will take place when our stand is contradicted by the stand of the world.*

“18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.” (Matthew 10:18 KJV) He told them also that the conspiracy of the Jewish will work it out to bring them to the Gentiles governors, and that will turn out to be a bad testimony to those who will persecute them and they will be judged for it, but that also will be a good opportunity and a good testimony to others so they will hear about Christ and in details. *As peacemakers, the accusations and the arguments that the troublemakers will set against us as we are peacemakers will be used by us to spread more details about Christ and the salvation of God.*

Jesus said, ***“for my sake”***, *therefore for the sake of Christ we need to be willing to go, to go with strategy, to find out worthy people, to evangelize, to drive out demons, to heal the sick, to clean the leprosy, to raise up the dead, and to be willing to suffer, persecuted, and to be willing to forgive, to be meek, to act wisely, and not to revenge or has ill feelings and anger or grudges against others who hurt us. Peacemakers will never take a decision to quit evangelism and to reach new people because they got hurt in the past. We do all that for the sake of Christ.*

“19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.” (Matthew 10:19-20 KJV) Here, when we are put in such situation, we don't need to be worry about what we are going to say or preach. Or which message we need to prepare. God the Holy Spirit that proceed from God our Father in Heaven will put in our mouths of what we are going to speak. *Therefore, as we dedicate our lives to the Lord to be peacemakers then the Lord will also give to us the needed message.* Now the needed message will be with the wisdom of God that men cannot resist. ***“12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. 13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony. 14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: 15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.” (Luke 21:12-15 KJV)*** *The message that God would give us may offend the people and those who are unworthy, who are unworthy of us, and they may react and retaliate against us, but we still we need to submit to the will of the Holy Spirit and tell them the message that God wants us to tell them.* We need to submit to the will of the Holy Spirit and allow the message

that God wants to tell them to come out from our mouths. As well as we need to submit to the will of the Holy Spirit and keep our hearts pure and without pain, or grudges against those who hate us.

Worldliness and compromises and the fear of man will not make us the peacemakers that God desires. But when we declare the message of God and the Word of Jesus then we will be in such circumstances the peacemakers that the Scriptures teach us to be.

“21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.” (Matthew 10:21 KJV) *The persecution will extend further that we will be persecuted by people who are very near to us, even to near to kin, brothers, sisters, parents and children, husband or wife.*

When it reaches the family circle that means our love toward God need to exceed our love to our own families. God wants us to be a real peacemakers and not compromisers

“22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 10:22 KJV) *In brief we will be hated of all men, the near and the far, the common people, the neighbours, the friends, the relatives and even our own family members. Jesus is the one who said it that we shall be hated of all men.*

Many people said to me, Pastor I am with you, you are a good man, but now they hate me, they fight hard against me, they did all what they can to topple me down; they are hating me as Jesus prophesied, ***“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.”*** *We need to persevere in that and endure it. If we stand firm on that and not compromise we shall be saved. We will be saved as we continue to give the right message that God is giving us to spread. Our standing firm enduring all the hatred of the people is the love of God that He is sending to the world through our lives.*

“23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.” (Matthew 10:23 KJV) *We will be persecuted, therefore we need to flee and escape to another city to preach His Word, and that will be the way for the message to be spread. We do not escalate retaliation and hatred but we spread more of God's Word.*

“Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.” Jesus here confirmed to them that He will come and confirm to them and to the people and to the cities that they are reaching out what they are doing, that they are sent by the Lord.

When Jesus said, ***“Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel.”*** Here the Lord insist on them on the pattern and strategy that they need to work on their evangelism, and on their reaching out as we discuss earlier, that they need to reach out first the Jewish, their own people they need to reach out first before they go to Samaria and to the Gentiles. As peacemakers we need to work out on the same strategy reaching out first our families, then our relatives, neighbours, friends, other cities, then to the whole world.

“24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?” (Matthew 10:24-25 KJV) The Lord here again assured the disciples that they will be persecuted and badly named and badly tagged with ill reputations as their Lord Himself suffered. They had called Jesus Beelzebub, and the disciples will be called the same; like demon possessed, evil does, mad people, etc. Beelzebub was the god of the Ekronites, ***“And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.” (2 Kings 1:2 KJV)*** The word ‘Beelzebub’, signifies a masterfly or the lord of the fly, the god of the Ekronites, and this idol was so called, either because it was in the form of a fly; or because of the abundance of flies about it, which were accumulated by reason of the blood of the sacrifices and that it why it was not able to drive away; and therefore the Jews scornfully gave it this name. While in the temple of God inspite of all the multitude of sacrifices that are offered up there never were seen a fly in the slaughter house. *Our God is the God of the burning Bush, There is a fire but the tree is not burned, there are many sacrifices slaughtered but there is no flies, there is persecution but the message getting more clear, there is a sanction and boycotting but we are well provided, there are many tumult from outside but we are in peace from inside.*

Our Lord Jesus suggested, that since He the great master of the family was called in such an abusive manner, it should be no cause of stumbling and offence, if those of a lower class in the family should be so stigmatized with bad names; if Christians are called by ever such bad names, even as devils or evil doers, they should not be disturbed at it; since their Lord and Master was called the prince of them.

“26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.” (Matthew 10:26 KJV) Jesus is telling them not to be intimidated if their reputation will be darkened, as such and not to be afraid because nothing will remain covered but the truth will be revealed and announced and they will be vindicated. ***“27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.” (Matthew 10:27 KJV)*** Jesus here assuring them that what they had received from Him is the truth and it will be confirmed so they don't need to hide it but to announce it in the light and to preach it from housetop of the houses so more people will listen. Jesus is telling them that they don't need to be afraid from people reactions because God sooner or later will confirm His Word that they preached.

“28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28 KJV) Here the Lord was telling them that they will be persecuted, but do not fear men who can kill the body and they can do nothing with the soul, but to fear God who can destroy both the soul and the body in hell. So here the Lord spoke clearly about hell, the end of all who do not fear God and walk in His ways. He warned them not to fear men and compromise but to fear God and stand firm in the truth. *We need to warn those who persecute us and trouble us that there will be hell ahead of them if they will not repent and turn away from their sins and their hatred toward us.*

“29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.” (Matthew 10:29 KJV) Jesus said here, the sparrows that are of low price that two of them sold for a farthing, (a very small coin contain 4 grains of silver), yet these sparrow will not fall down on the ground without the approval and the knowledge of God our Father. *So we need to compare ourselves now, how much more will God care for us as decided to go on and serve Him and declare His Word to others.*

“30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matthew 10:30 KJV) Jesus even declared here to the apostles and to us today that even the hairs of our heads are counted. God knows everything about us and about even the least important details of our lives. Therefore, ***“31 Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:31 KJV)*** *We should not be afraid from men, from persecutions, from threats, from people hating us for the sake of the truth, because God will continue to care for us, vindicates us, confirm what we are doing and He will not allow anything to happen to us without His knowledge or approval.*

Jesus declared the followings: ***“32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33 KJV)*** *If we will stand with the Lord and do the mission in a worthy manner and acknowledge Him and His Word before men, He will acknowledge us in the last day before God our Father. He will say to God the Father that He knows us and we are His. But if we fail Him, He will deny us before God the Father and He will say that He does not know us.*

To reach and make it to heaven we need to stand with the Lord and be the proper peacemakers of the world based on our stand against sin, worldliness, corruption and compromises, and with such people will hate us and persecute us.

The peacemakers that we are called to be by Jesus Christ is different from what the world thinks about peace: Even with such, Jesus our Lord declared it: ***“34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” (Matthew 10:34 KJV)*** *The kind of peace that God wants us to do is to stir up and expose the work of darkness, to expose sins, to disturb the foundation of corruption, compromises, and the injustice, and all that may stir up persecution, and war, and hatred against us as we raise the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God against Satan, against sin and against the power of darkness.*

“35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.” (Matthew 10:35-36 KJV) Jesus came to set up variances even inside the one family, between children and fathers, between daughters and mothers, and man's enemy will be from among his own family.

Where we are today form the Word of Jesus? As workers, as ministers, as pastors, as Church of God, as denomination, have we allowed all men to hate us, or have we compromised and provoked the anger and the wrath of the Lord against us?

“37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37 KJV) *If we prefer men and near to kin relationship more than God, then we become unworthy of Him. We need to let people to be unworthy of us so we can be worthy of Jesus.*

“38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:38 KJV) *It is our cross that we need to carry daily to be peacemakers in the way that God wants us to be so that we can be worthy of the Lord. If we compromise and flatter to gain our comfort we will be unworthy for the Lord.*

“39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matthew 10:39 KJV) *If we lose our lives being willing to follow Christ's Word and instructions and live according to what He said then we are finding the real life and the eternity that Jesus gives to us. But if we are worldly and we want to enjoy life as the people in the world do, then we are losing our lives and will be ending in hell.*

“40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.” (Matthew 10:40 KJV) Jesus here assured His apostles and is assuring us today and confirming to us the way that He needs us to go through. *If they will receive us with the way that Christ wants us to go with such salty message and urgent mission then they are receiving Christ. But if we go to them with birthday parties and Christmas celebrations, makeup, and bundles of flatteries then we are endorsing to them Beelzebub.*

So here there is a sender, who is God the Father, who sent Jesus Christ, who is sending us. Therefore we need to carry the message of God to the people whom God is sending us to and who see how they will receive us. If they will receive the message then they are receiving Christ and God the Father, and if they will not receive the message then they are rejecting Christ and God the Father.

“41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.” (Matthew 10:41 KJV) *We need to go to them as prophets who are declaring to them the will of God in their lives and what God wants them to do, and we need to go to them as righteous men who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and if they will receive us based on that then they will not fail to receive their reward from God. And as they support us and our mission and agreed with us, then God will reward them accordingly.*

“42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” (Matthew 10:42 KJV) *Jesus here speaks that the people who would receive us as disciples of Jesus because they can see in us that we are endeavoring to follow Christ, to learn from Him and imitating Him, and who will support us, they will not fail to receive the reward that is allocated to them, even if they offer to us a cup of water.*

“A cup of cold water”, it means it is treated to be cold, and that it means it had been put in a certain vessels and in certain place to make it cold, and that it means effort had

been spent on it to keep it cold to sooth the feelings of the disciples. *Those who will do such good to us, treating us good for being His disciples, they shall not lose their reward if they continue to do the same and not give up.*

My dear and beloved:

Peacemakers are to deal first with sin whenever that is possible.

Peacemakers they have assignments that they need to fulfill to deal with sin in order to bring peace.

We are called to be humble as sheep, willing to minister to bad people (wolves) and bring the good news to them.

As peacemakers, we are called to be harmless as doves in heart, yet as subtle as serpents among the nations of the world.

As peacemakers, we should be like sheep, and to avoid all snares and traps that are laid for us; and, at the same time, we are called to maintain the innocence and harmlessness of the dove, being free from all wicked cunning and craftiness, without resentment, bitterness, animosity, ill will, malice, and wrath; not meditating and seeking revenge, but as sheep of Jesus we should be meek and humble, leading inoffensive lives, and proceeding in the course of our calling.

As peacemakers, and as disciples of the Lord, though we are liable to many insults, and much oppression, we are called to be wise as snake to do all what we can to protect ourselves, and not to provoke others. We are called to be like dove that are harmless, of clean hearts, and of not evil toward others.

As peacemakers, we need not to compromise even if people hate us and ill treat us. We need to bear persecution, abuse and hatred and we need to shake off our feet from the dust as a sign against them, and we need to be as harmless as dove and clean heart even toward the people who harm us and ill treat us.

As peacemakers, the accusations and the arguments that the troublemakers will set against us to trouble us we should use them as opportunities to spread more details about Christ and the salvation of God.

As peacemakers, for the sake of Christ we need to be willing to go with strategy, to find out worthy people, to evangelize, to drive out demons, to heal the sick, to clean the leprous, to raise up the dead, and to be willing to suffer, persecuted, and to be willing to forgive, to be meek, to act wisely, and not to revenge or has ill feelings and anger or grudges against others who hurt us. Peacemakers will never take a decision to quit evangelism and to reach new people because they got hurt in the past. We do all that for the sake of Christ.

As peacemakers, we need to trust God that he will give us the needed message. Putting in our minds that the message that God would give us may offend the people and those who are unworthy of us, and they may react and retaliate against us, but we still we

need to submit to the will of the Holy Spirit and tell them the message that God wants us to tell them.

Put in your mind that worldliness and compromises and the fear of man will not make you the peacemakers that God desires. But when you declare the message of God and the Word of Jesus then you will be in such circumstances the peacemakers that the Scriptures teach us to be.

As peacemakers, put in your mind that persecution may extend further that you will be persecuted by people who are very near to you, even to near to kin, brothers, sisters, parents and children, husband or wife.

As peacemakers, put in your mind that when persecution will come from the family circle that means your love toward God need to exceed your love to your own family. God wants you to be a real peacemakers and not to compromise with your own family.

As peacemakers, you need to accept that you will be hated of all men, as Jesus said and you need to endure it.

As peacemakers, when you will be persecuted, you need to flee and escape to another city to preach His Word, and that will be the way for the message to be spread. You do not need to escalate retaliation and hatred but you need to spread more of God's Word.

As peacemakers, you need to warn those who persecute you and trouble you that there will be hell ahead of them if they will not repent and turn away from their sins and their hatred toward you.

As peacemakers, you should not be afraid of persecution because God will continue to care for you, vindicates you, confirm what you are doing ,and He will not allow anything to happen to you without His knowledge or approval.

As peacemakers, if you will stand with the Lord and do the mission in a worthy manner and acknowledge Him and His Word before men, He will acknowledge you in the last day before God our Father. He will say to God the Father that He knows you and you are His. But if you fail Him, He will deny you before God the Father and He will say that He does not know you.

The peacemakers that you are called to be by Jesus Christ is different from what the world thinks about peace. The kind of peace that God wants you to do is to stir up and expose the work of darkness, to expose sins, to disturb the foundation of corruption, compromises, and the injustice, and all that may stir up persecution, and war, and hatred against you as you raise the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God against Satan, against sin and against the power of darkness.

As peacemakers, where you are today form the Word of Jesus? As workers, as ministers, as pastors, as Church of God, as denomination, have you allowed all men to hate you, or have you compromised and provoked the anger and the wrath of the Lord against you?

As peacemakers, if you prefer men and near to kin relationship more than God, then you become unworthy of Him. You need to let people to be unworthy of you so you can be worthy of Jesus.

As peacemakers, if you lose your life being willing to follow Christ's Word and instructions and live according to what He said then you are finding the real life and the eternity that Jesus gives to you. But if you are worldly and you want to enjoy life as the people in the world do then you are losing your life and will be ending in hell if you will not repent.

As peacemakers, if they will receive you with the way that Christ wants you to go with salty message and urgent mission then they are receiving Christ. But if you go to them with birthday parties and Christmas celebrations, makeup, and bundles of flatteries then you are endorsing to them Beelzebub.

As peacemakers, you need to go to the people as prophet who is declaring to them the will of God in their lives and what God wants them to do, and you need to go as righteous man who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and if they will receive you based on that then they will not fail to receive their reward from God. And as they support you and your mission and agreed with you, then God will reward them accordingly.

My prayer:

Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that open my mind clearly and made me understand your will and the way that you want to live my life for you and the way to serve you.

Let us confess to God our sins and wrongdoings. Lord forgives me the following sins _____ . Ask God forgiveness for your unfaithfulness, your compromises and for loving people especially your family members more than Christ.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in this message to be a real peacemakers as we studied in this message. Lord I commit myself to evangelize, to deal with sin, and to declare to sinners and evil doers the judgment of God on their lives. Lord I commit myself to go as sheep, to be wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove. Lord give me more wisdom and discernment and direct me of what I need to do in my ministry.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to live as peacemakers and to apply the principles that we learn from your Word in this message Lord protect them, and provide for them all their needs. Lord comfort them and assure them that you are with them and leading them in their lives. Lord give them joy, happiness and peace. Lord visit them and reveal yourself more to them.

Lord protect us from persecution. Lord deal with those who are attacking us and reward those who are supporting us. Lord fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and makes our 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 use us to be peacemakers that you wants us to be, to evangelize and to make new disciples as you ordained.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord add to us more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of 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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