

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 31

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

Let us continue to study the Scriptures to discover more clearly what Jesus meant with the peacemakers and how He wants us to live our lives for Him:

“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18 KJV) Let us read the passage that this verse was placed in. ***“17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:17-21 KJV)***

“17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” (Romans 12:17 KJV) In this set up there is an offense that had been taken place against us. What God teaching us as peacemakers, we should avoid to revenge or pay evil for evil. In addition, ***Provide things honest in the sight of all men: Let your stand on God's Word clear and explain well that you are a person that what you made of decisions based on Scriptures, that is how to be honest, and you need to expound that to the people around you, and put it into action and execute it in a fair way to all the people around you.*** Now we do all what we can to explain our stand to make people understand. ***Therefore do all what you can and what is in your hand to make people understand that what you are doing came from the Scriptures.*** But certain times the Word of God and the will of God is very ugly and non acceptable to the people around us. Jacob in the day of his wedding received Leah instead of Rachel that he was in love with. Certain times the Word of God is like that, and the people may react very badly against us.

Not every person like Moses who was highly educated but decided to follow God, left Egypt and was willing to marry the daughter of the priest of Midian. ***We need to do all what we can not only to avoid revenge but not to cause offenses as well,*** and that is what he says here, ***“18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18 KJV)*** Now when people cannot accept our stand and will start to fight and pressurized us, we cannot change our stand and break Scriptures for their own sake to please them. ***How about if they will fight back? Still we don't break the Word of God to please them, but we bear their threats and harms, their accusations, their bad words against us and their harms. We go through prayer and fasting and these are our weapons. We do all what we can to protect ourselves and we don't make threats or retaliate or fight,*** and that is what he said here, ***“19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” (Romans 12:19 KJV)*** God said in His Word that He will revenge, ***“To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.” (Deuteronomy 32:35 KJV)*** God will make a way that their foot will

slide and they fall down in calamity and trouble in due time, and they will be repaid properly for all their wickedness, stealing, taking advantage, using us, abusing us, mocking us, persecuting us, etc. It will come quickly on them on God's due time. God will pay their evil and God shall reward us for the hurts we received from them. ***How about their slanders to us, their blackening to our reputation and the lies and the scandals they spread against us? We need to trust God that He will rectified things on our behalf. The Holy Spirit will speak on our behalf.*** Joseph was accused by the wife of Potiphar, he did not even defend himself when they put him in prison. Yes true in prison, he said that he is innocent and did nothing deserve imprisonment, but the final vindication came from the Lord when the Holy Spirit inspire Moses to write what had really had happened, that the woman came to him, and not the opposite as she accused him.

Therefore God will deal with our enemies; He will deal with all their naughtiness. He is watching over His Word to be fulfilled. ***How about us what we need to do? We need to forgive and clean our hearts from all grudges, the ill feelings, the pain, the old painful memories and start to think of good thoughts and be ready still to be a blessing to those people who hurt us.***

Let us now take few moments to forgive those who hurt us and to forget all the grievances that came from them. Lord cleanse my mind from the painful memories and all the abuse that I received from the people _____, heal my heart and cleanse me Lord I pray from all pain, grudges, retaliation, revenge, and unforgiveness

“20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.” (Romans 12:20 KJV) ***If ever you are led by the Holy Spirit to do something for your enemies, then you are called to do certain good and not evil. If ever God will speak to you to go back to them is to feed them if they are hungry, and to give them something to drink if they are thirsty. That means you are called to give them all the necessity of life.*** This is taken from ***Proverbs 25:21-22 “21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: 22 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.” (Proverbs 25:21-22 KJV)*** ***For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head,*** it means that after you feed him and give him drink, he will be ashamed of his hatred and the bad things he did to you, and he might be repenting and start to love you. ***And the LORD shall reward thee: The Lord shall reward you when you do such good things to your enemies as the Holy Spirit of God leading you to do that.***

“21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21 KJV) So here when we are hurt and evil had been done to us, in front of us is not the revenge but the doing of good toward those who hurt us. ***Certain times God will allow such situations to continue to come across our lives till we learn not to react and revenge but to do what is good toward our enemies. The world teaches us to revenge, but the Gospel and the grace of God teaches us another lesson. We will have victory when we do good and refrain from evil.***

There is a story in the Old Testament about such event: *“8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. 11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? 12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. 13 And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. 14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. 20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. 21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? 22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. 23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.” (2 Kings 6:8-23 KJV)*

“8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.” (2 Kings 6:8-10 KJV) Here the enemy was planning to do evil against Israel. And here the man of God, Elisha sent and informed the King of Israel about that attacks. When we have the mind of God and we are peacemakers, God will inspire us how to combat the power of darkness. He will show us as he showed here the movement of the enemy as he shown here to Elisha, the man of God, who warned God's people of the coming threat and took their guard and were protected. That happened not only once or twice but repeatedly. This is here the power that peacemakers are receiving from God. The world at war and planning evil, but we are at peace, and we are at ease and we are enjoying peaceful life and life to the full; warning and helping the people of God and inspire them and give them advices how to avoid harms and what the power of darkness are

doing against them. Devil hates us because we are teaching others how to avoid the weapons of the devil and how to escape all the harms that the devil is executing against them. The Word of God that we teach to the people of God is exposing to them the movement of Devil and its demons and their tactics, that is why we are hated and we are targeted by the power of darkness. When we lay down the foundation that the apostles of Christ laid down, then we are teaching them to hide and to protect themselves from the vices of the enemy. The various teaching that God is leading the church through us is to protect the members and spare them troubles from the devil schemes. Here Elisha was teaching the people and informing them about the movement of the enemy and its tactics. We as peacemakers we do the same and we teach the people to avoid getting trapped by the movement of the enemy. The enemy are full of jealousy, greed, selfishness and we really need to learn from the Scriptures how to handle them.

“11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?” (2 Kings 6:11 KJV) Our enemies, Devil and demons and those who follow them are sore troubled because we are exposing their plans and evil schemes, therefore the people who are controlled by the power of darkness they hate us and they direct their forces to trouble us. They are planning evil against us, while we are in our hearts, has no plan to revenge, therefore when they see that God is protecting us, their heart might be hardened and be filled with jealousy and pain. They will be doubting themselves that somebody among them is betraying them.

“12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.” (2 Kings 6:12 KJV) Finally they come to know about Elisha, that he is the one who was informing the King of Israel their movements. Finally they will know that we are led by God in our doing, and we are informed by God of their movements and their conspiracies. We will be targeted and our names and persons will be blacklisted. With such progress they will start to hate us and plan evil against us.

“13 And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. 14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.” (2 Kings 6:13-14 KJV) They might even conspire against us and try to harm us, as had happened to Elisha here when the king of Syria knew that all his movement is revealed to Elisha and he is giving intelligence, he was so angry toward Elisha and he planned to harm him. They found out where he was located and they sent horses and chariots to arrest him. Why they got angry and upset with Elisha and they wanted to catch him? Because Elisha frustrated their plans, therefore they sent to Dothan and compass it to arrest him.

To tell you the truth, we as Church of God certain times we are hated by the people because we had worked out to frustrate their plans that does not go along with God's will. Certain times we are not aware, but our teaching is directed to frustrate all the worldliness and human's plans and ambitions.

That what the enemy will do to us, they will start to fight against us and attack us because devil is behind them and is using them to harm us and God's church. Devil who will end up in eternal fire is pulling others with him. Those who are deceived by Satan they will pull others out of the church after them. So ultimately we will found out that a big flock of people against us, and as army is coming surrounding us to fight against us as had happened here with Elisha. They found where was Elisha, and they sent army to attack him. Yes true we are surrounding by a big folk of people who are against of what we teach and against of what we follow, but still those who are with us are greater than they who are in the world.

“15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?” (2 Kings 6:15 KJV) The servant of Elisha saw the armies and the big host of the enemy and he was afraid. He was shocked and said, how shall we do? There will be with us brethren who will not have strong faith and they might be shaken when the enemy will attack us therefore we need to encourage them. Some people they are only following results. They will follow the strong therefore we need to be aware how to handle such people. With the wisdom of God Elisha answered his servant, **“16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.” (2 Kings 6:16 KJV)** We need to encourage the people not to be afraid or dismayed. Yes the host of God is with us, the angels of God encamping around us, we who are living righteous life; the angels of God encamp around those peacemakers who fear God to protect us. The peacemakers aren't afraid when they are attacked because the hosts of God is with them.

“17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.” (2 Kings 6:17 KJV) Elisha prayed the right prayer. He asked God to open the eyes of his servant so he can see the huge Army of God that was with them. Yes, there is a big Army around us too! We are protected and we are secure in the presence of God Almighty!

“18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.” (2 Kings 6:18 KJV) Here Elisha prayed that they will be stricken by blindness so that they won't be able to catch him. His prayer was not to curse them but just to protect himself. We do pray certain times this way not only to protect ourselves, but also to direct our enemies in the direction that God wants them to move.

“19 And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.” (2 Kings 6:19 KJV) The Syrians were blinded, so Elisha was able to lead them to the city of Samaria. They came to Dothan but he took them to Samaria. Elisha told them this is not the way in order to take them to the direction where they would never be willingly to go. Why did he do that and took them to Samaria?! Possibly he did this to teach the King of Israel a lesson on mercy and forgiveness as evidenced in the next verses especially in verses 21 to 22.

This is not telling them lies. We do in certain times the same way of talk so people will be directed to the direction that God want them to pursue.

“20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.” (2 Kings 6:20 KJV) After they came to Samaria, Elisha prayed that God will open their eyes so that they can see. When their eyes were opened, the Syrians most likely found themselves in the midst of their enemies, the Israelites Army. God will always make sure that our enemies will realize that they cannot prevail against us and that the Lord had bestowed on us power, wisdom and authority. Greater is He that is in us than the one who is in the World.

“21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them? 22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.” (2 Kings 6:21-22 KJV) The King of Israel asked Elisha if he can kill them as being his enemies, but Elisha instructed him not to do that because they are prisoners and he should not killed them but to give them food and drink and to send them back to their master. Elisha said that so the king shall feed them and fulfill God's Word in **Proverbs 25:21-22**. We as church and workers of God may pray that the people get blinded so they will not go to the wrong direction that they are planning to go. So we can handle them and guide them, as God did when he blinded Saul to humble him and make him know Him and after that he opened his eyes. We as church may do all these things to help the people to go into the direction of heaven. We are not dangerous people but we are the peacemakers of God and we are aware that God has good plans for all the people and need them to reach Heaven.

People may have wrong thoughts about us and may hate us but we are of good intention toward the people and have the good thoughts toward them to make them reach Heaven with us. The church is not round about to choose where people wants to go. But the church is a U turn to lead the people back 180 degrees to the plan of God.

The King of Israel should not kill them because they are already harmless and they will not be able to do any mischief. So now we can understand why he prayed that they will be stricken by blindness so he will take them prisoner and later on to be treated well by giving them food and drink. The king of Israel called Elisha **“My father”**, that indicate the authority that the man of God had and the favor that God gave to him among the people.

“23 And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.” (2 Kings 6:23 KJV) When he treated them and send them back to their master, what God promised was fulfilled, **“21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: 22 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.” (Proverbs 25:21-22 KJV)** to heap coals of fire upon their heads, for they got ashamed

of what they were doing in intending to harm the Israelites, and finally their bands stopped coming into the land of Israel. When we behave as peacemakers our enemies will be finally ashamed and stop attacking us. Elisha in doing that he taught a good lesson to the King of Israel of how to be peacemaker and deal properly and effectively toward his enemies.

“24 And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria.” (2 Kings 6:24 KJV) But for a while and for a time the enemy will not attack us but later on will come back and attack us. It is not the people who are attacking us, but the devil who is behind them, will continue to stir new people and new victims to do that. Therefore we need to keep the attitude of peacemakers so that we can be able once again to face the power of the enemy and the power of darkness.

My dear and beloved: In conclusion let us brief what we learn to be peacemakers.

As peacemaker, let your stand on God's Word clear and explain well that you are a person that what you made of decisions is based on Scriptures, that is how to be honest, and you need to expound that to the people around you, and put it into action and execute it in a fair way to all the people around you. Do all what you can and what is in your hand to make people understand that what you are doing came from the Scriptures

As peacemaker, we need to do all what we can not only to avoid revenge but not to cause offenses as well. How about if they will fight back? Still we don't break the Word of God to please them, but we bear their threats and harms, their accusations, their bad words against us and their harms. We go through prayer and fasting and these are our weapons. We do all what we can to protect ourselves and we don't make threats or retaliate or fight,

As peacemaker, we need to trust God that the Holy Spirit will speak on our behalf. He will rectify their slanders to us, their blackening to our reputation and the lies and the scandals they spread against us

As peacemaker, we need to forgive and clean our hearts from all grudges, the ill feelings, the pain, the old painful memories and start to think of good thought and be ready still to be a blessing to those people who hurt us.

As peacemaker, if ever you are led by the Holy Spirit to do something for your enemies, then you are called to do certain good and not evil. If ever God will speak to you to go back to them is to feed them if they are hungry, and to give them something to drink if they are thirsty. That means you are called to give them all the necessity of life.

As peacemaker, The Lord shall reward you when you do such good things to your enemies as the Holy Spirit of God leading you to do that.

As peacemaker, God will allow enemies to continue to come across our lives till we learn not to react and revenge but to do what is good toward our enemies. The world teaches us to revenge, but the Gospel and the grace of God teaches us another lesson, and we will have victory when we do good and refrain from evil.

As peacemakers, God will inspire us how to combat the power of darkness. He will show us also the movement of the enemy so we can deal with them.

As peacemakers we are receiving power from God. The world at war and planning evil, but we are at peace, and we are at ease and we are enjoying peaceful life and life to the full.

As peacemaker, the Word of God that we teach to the people of God is exposing to them the movement of Devil and its demons and their tactics, that is why we are hated and we are targeted by the power of darkness.

As peacemakers we teach the people to avoid get trapped by the movement of the enemy and its vices. The enemy are full of jealousy, greed, selfishness and we really need to learn from the Scriptures and teach others how to handle them.

As peacemaker, we as Church of God certain times we are hated by the people because we had worked out to frustrate their plans that does not go along with God's will. Certain times we are not aware, but our teaching is directed to frustrate all the worldliness and human's plans and ambitions.

As peacemaker, the enemy will start to fight against us and attack us because devil is behind them and is using them to harm us and God's church. Devil who will end up in eternal fire is pulling others with him. Those who are deceived by Satan they will pull others out of the church after them. So ultimately we will found out that a big flock of people against us, and as army is coming surrounding us to fight against us as had happened with Elisha.

As peacemaker, true that we are surrounded by a big folk of people who are against of what we teach and against of what we follow, but still those who are with us are greater than they who are in the world.

As peacemaker, we need to encourage the people not to be afraid or dismayed because the host of God is with us, the angels of God encamping around us to protect us.

As peacemaker, we do pray certain times that God may strike our enemies not only to protect ourselves, but also to direct our enemies in the direction that God wants them to move. We need to be willing to direct our enemies into the direction that God wants them to move into.

As peacemaker, we need to understand that God will always make sure that our enemies will realize that they cannot prevail against us and that the Lord had bestowed on us power, wisdom and authority. Greater is He that is in us than the one who is in the World.

We as church may do all these things to help the people to go into the direction of Heaven. We are not dangerous people but we are the peacemakers of God and we are aware that God has good plans for all the people and need them to reach Heaven. People may have wrong thoughts about us and may hate us but we are of good intention toward the people and have the good thoughts toward them to make them

reach Heaven with us. The church is not round about where people choose where they wants to go. But the church is a U turn to lead the people back 180 degrees to the plan of God.

When we behave as peacemakers, forgive our enemies and give them their needs our enemies will be finally ashamed and stop attacking us.

As peacemaker, we need to understand it is not the people who are attacking us, but the devil who is behind them, who will continue to stir up new people and new victims to do that. Therefore we need to keep the attitude of peacemakers so that we can be able once again to face the power of the enemy and the power of darkness.

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 how to be peacemakers and the way that you want me 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 anger, revenge, retaliation, grudges and hatred toward your enemies.

Let us now take few moments to forgive those who hurt us and to forget all the grievances that came from them. Lord cleanse my mind from the painful memories and all the abuse that I received from the people _____ , heal my heart and cleanse me Lord I pray from all pain, grudges, retaliation, revenge, and unforgiveness

Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in this message to be a real peacemakers. Lord give me wisdom how to apply what we studied today in your Word to feed my enemy and give him a cup to drink and to follow your way in dealing with those who has hatred towards me.

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 visits them and reveal yourself more to them and give them more discernment how to deal with their enemies.

Lord protect us from persecution. Lord deal with those who are attacking 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 gifts 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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