

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 35

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

The vision of the church is multiplication in rest and peace based on the Word of God from Acts 9:31, ***“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.” (Acts 9:31 KJV)*** Peace will come into our midst when we start to fear God, when we start to deal with sin and get edified, and that will invite the Holy Spirit, and the blessings of God in our lives, that will bring healthy and peaceful multiplications. ***To bring peace, people should be willing to give up their sins; therefore if they are not willing, then better they will leave the church and the church to continue with the few who are willing to follow God.***

We will continue to study the Scriptures, that teach us how to have peace, in order to apply them in our lives.

“12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. 15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?” (1 Corinthians 7:12-16 KJV) ***Here Paul was speaking about a Brother or a Sister who came to the Lord and their spouse are still in none believe. He is not speaking here about a believer who went and marry non believer. But a non believer husband and wife who are already married and then one of them became a believer.*** If the non believer spouse, he or she still wishes to live with the wife or the husband, He say here to be a peacemaker, she or he should not divorce the non believing partner but to continue to live with him or with her. To be a peacemaker, ***“Let him not put her away”, and, “Let her not leave him”.*** ***Why God still wants this marriage and this family to continue while the believing wife and the believing husband need to be a peacemaker and bear to continue to live with the non believing wife or the non believing husband? “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.” (1 Corinthians 7:14 KJV) They would be sanctified through their spouse and the children also will be holy and clean. There will be impartation of faith, holiness, attitudes, and there will be more teaching and God’s Word will be preached daily in the family. Why God will do such? Because when they got married both of them were in non believe, and when God open their eyes to the truth and they believed and obeyed to be peacemakers and did not leave their spouses God would reward them for that.***

God also will reward their faithfulness toward their marriage; He would sanctified their partners and would sanctified their children for their obedience sake. Here is

speaking about the responsibility of the husband to bear the bad attitude of his unbelieving wife and the responsibility of the wife to bear the bad attitude of her unbelieving husband so that one day they will be saved, “16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?” (1 Corinthians 7:16 KJV).

“But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.” (1 Corinthians 7:15 KJV) ***But if the non believing spouse wants to leave or left then as peacemakers they are no more under guilty feelings, and they are no more accountable, and they are no more bound or responsible before God if the other spouse had left the marital life and not willing to respond to all the trial of the believer partner. “But God hath called us to peace.” It means we, the believers, we should not be the one to break the peace inside the family or break the family unity. The believer are under high responsibility and under high expectation of God not to break marriage. We are in bondage for our marriages. But if the other (the non believer) went ahead and did that after all the trial of the believer to keep the family then he or she (the believer) is no more accountable for such breaking, but he or she (the believer) is still accountable before God to restore back the unity of the family whenever that is possible.***

But to tell you the truth, in my experience, in certain examples, I have seen the believers they are the one who become irresponsibly toward God and will go ahead to break their marriages with the non believer spouse. That is why the message in your hand is a reminder to you to be in full responsibility before God to keep your marriage intact.

The unity of the family is very important. Now, if the above is what we spoke that one of the couple is nonbeliever, then how much more the responsibility of those partners who are both believers before God to keep the unity of the family. ***If both are believers, then they are highly responsible before God to keep the marriage and the peace in the family. There is only one absolute reason that man or woman cannot stay with his partner is when the other person has a third partner or he is previously married or previously has children from other third partner. The rest of the reasons might not valid before God as this reason to break any marriage or to dissolve any family among believers in Christ.***

Only, a previous ex-partner in marriage, or previous children from a living partners will nullify the desire of the spouse to live with her or his present spouse.

Why this teaching is important for us as a church who desires to be a peacemaker? Because many who come to faith, the first thing they think to do is to break their marriage life with their old partner and look for a believer person to marry. Why? Because they don’t want to be responsible and face the trial of the family life; it might be in their mind that new life in Christ it needs a new partner; that is against the Scriptures.

There are also churches and pastors who teach those people to do so and to encourage them to have a new family. Some they teach that your marriage while you are in non believe is not valid, but that is not correct. This is not the way to be peacemakers but troublemakers. Such will promote the sin of adultery inside the body of Christ.

The first thing devil want to do for the family is to break the marriage and break the relationship between husband and wife and cause them separation. Separation by itself as first happen, will make the man and the woman be susceptible to other relationship and that is adultery and that is the aim of the devil that both will end up in hell.

“But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.” (1 Corinthians 7:15 KJV)
Now if the non believing spouse leaves then the other person, a husband or a wife, is not allowed to go and marry another person as long as his old partner is alive. “The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 7:39 KJV)

“By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.” (Hebrews 11:31 KJV) The prostitute Rahab repented of her sin of prostitution and received the spies and without fear; even she did not fear the edict of the King. But she received them in peace and hid them, and helped them to escape out from the city and out of the hand of their enemies, the people of the city of Jericho. To be peace makers is to help those who are persecuted who are doing the work of God and the will of God; our hearts should be united in righteousness toward those whom God is using and sending to us to help them as they are doing all what they can to serve the Lord.

Some they accused Rahab that she told lies to the soldiers of the kings when she hid the spies and did not give the right intelligence about them. Rahab did not tell lies, but she did not give the right information and harm the messengers of God that He sent toward her. Therefore, we need to do the same with the enemies who are attacking the church, we should not give them any true information that they can use to harm the church.

“29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” (1 Corinthians 14:29-33 KJV) What he means here by **“God is not the author of confusion, but of peace,”** is that He always send His Word to His Church, the Word that His church needs, and He uses people who carry the Word of God.

In the church of Corinth one of the problem in that church they were speaking much in tongues but there was no interpretation, as well as they were not giving any importance to the prophecy which Paul means here by prophecy is to declare the will of God to the people clearly and in profound way with clear language.

Prophecy is not only about preaching but about dealing with issues that need advices and need certain decision to be taken. Even in church meeting the preaching should be directed by the Holy Spirit who give His Word to certain people in the church to feed the flock declaring to them the whole will of God.

Along the years, we as church, we were observing that; we do always entertain people who speak from the mouth of God and value what God would be speaking to His church through His Word. Along the years we also as church we were entertaining people opinions and suggestions and complaints and we were also weighing them with the Word of God, as well as we were requesting those who come with opinion, suggestion or complaint to come with Scriptures because we believe that God is speaking to His Church through Scriptures and clear vision and clear Word to bring peace.

When people come forward without Scripture or come with things against Scriptures that initiative is not from God and we reject such, for that will bring confusion in the midst of God's church.

“29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.” (1 Corinthians 14:29 KJV) Those whom we are aware that God is speaking through them and they come with clear Scriptures we allow them to speak and to express themselves freely as they present the Scriptures as prove that God is speaking through them. We listen and we judge as we are weighing what they are saying with what is taking place in the circumstances around us.

“30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.” (1 Corinthians 14:30 KJV) While he is speaking God may reveal another things to another prophet, so the first one, should hold his peace, and keep silent and let other speak out what he received from God. In such a way the message will be completed as God using different individuals.

“31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.” (1 Corinthians 14:31 KJV) The purpose of prophesying one by one, to declare the will of God, is to let the message of God and His will to be declared completely and clearly and that people will learn or informed, and that will bring comfort and peace to them as they obey. When he says, **“For ye may all prophesy one by one”**, that does not mean if someone know how to preach, or know how to speak he is allowed to preach, but it means someone who can hear what God is saying, and bringing the Word that God is sending to His church then that person is allowed to speak and preach.

“32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.” (1 Corinthians 14:32 KJV) Out of such meetings those who speak out and the outcome of what they speak will be evaluated along the time and the circumstance, that will prove that they either spoke by themselves or God was speaking through them. Based on that Godly opinions will be build up and Godly decision will be taken accordingly.

“33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” (1 Corinthians 14:33 KJV) God is the author of peace as we endeavour to follow the ways of God in bringing peace in our midst. We allow God to speak to us through the prophets to cleanse us and to clean our congregations from the sins of envy, strife, gossips, selfishness, corruption, injustice and doing our own will, and to keep in our fellowship the saints who fear God and delight to hear and obey His Word.

“1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Timothy 2:1-6 KJV) The value of prayers in our lives and in the life of the church is great to bring peace and to be peacemakers, and to bring the Word of God to other people around us. *Are you observing prayers in your life and endeavouring to pray for others so that the peace of God will come into their lives, into your life and into the life of the church?*

Prayer can change people and can change circumstances that finally will bring peace. Prayer can do things unexpected and beyond the imagination of the people.

“1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV) Paul was admonishing the church here to make

1. Supplications: To ask God mercy and appeal for His help.

2. Prayers: To ask God to give the people their needs.

3. Intercessions: To pray on the behalf of others that they might be brought near to God. Like we are interceding for the non believers to repent, or for believers to repent, or that God will have mercy on those cities or the communities that are away from God.

4. Giving of thanks, be made for all: *We give thanks for the good things that we received from God. This will help to bring peace, because in giving thanks, first of all we are seeing the good things that God is giving to us, and second is that we are showing our gratefulness to God and expressing our gratitude to Him and to what we are receiving from Him. As well as in thanksgiving we are expressing our trust on God that He can do good things and change circumstances.*

My dear and beloved: We are called to pray in all these details for all the people, as well as to those who are in authority. Our prayers will lead us to live a quiet and peaceable life observing to live in Godliness and in honest way.

Peace is needed in the cities and in the places that we are living so that God's Word will be spread in a better way to others. God recommend us to live in all Godliness and to be honest in our lives and doing. God also recommend us to seek the peace and to pray for the cities that He had placed us in, ***“And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.” (Jeremiah 29:7 KJV)*** For when there will be peace in the places that God had brought us to, we too will have and receive peace and blessings. ***“3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.” (1 Timothy 2:3 KJV)*** Such attitude of prayer with such a mind will please God and is acceptable to Him. Such will open more ways for evangelism and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ who gave Himself on the cross to give all those who believe on Him eternal life: ***“4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God***

and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Timothy 2:4-6 KJV)

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 made me understand your will and ways for me to be peacemaker and how to bring your peace in the midst of our families, in the way we serve you, in the life of your church and in our lives of prayer.

Let us confess to God our sins and wrongdoings. Lord forgives me the following sins _____. Ask God forgiveness for your lack of patience and perseverance in dealing with your family problems. Ask God forgiveness for your unfaithfulness in prayers and ask God forgiveness for not heeding the prophetic messages that you are receiving from Him through His church.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in this message to be a real peacemakers; to keep loving to my spouse and continue to be faithful to the family life: to give good time for prayers, and to heed and apply the message that I receive from your church.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and are willing to live as peacemakers in the way we studied in this message. Lord protect them, and provide for them all their needs. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to persevere in serving you. Lord give them joy, comfort, assurance and peace. Lord visits them, lift them up, and uphold them with your grace as they are willing to deal with sin and to do your will.

Lord do miracle in our church. Lord bless our families, the saints and the brethren who are serving you with us. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord send to us your Word that we need to hear from you. Lord add to us more 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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