

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 57

The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Sardis Part 2

“1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:1-6 KJV)

“3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” (Revelation 3:3 KJV)

Remember: Here Jesus was telling to the church in Sardis to remember; the church which had the reputation being alive but is dead Jesus is telling them remember. When Jesus was telling them remember means either they had forgotten what they had received of good things from God or forgotten what they heard from teaching and the Word of God. *Many who receive good things but they forget; not because they have short memory but because being unfaithful they will put aside and fail to do their responsibilities and pay back for what they received.*

Let us go now through the Scripture and read where God had told His people and to us today to remember so we can be reminded in order to go and do our part in the areas that we fail God.

1. “And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.” (Exodus 13:3 KJV) That was the day of the exodus from Egypt, and here Moses asked them to remember this day to keep the Feast of the Passover, and to keep giving their firstfruits to God. For us today we need to keep the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord over our lives, who saved us with His blood and we need to put Him first in our lives. In particular in pertain to the occasion that Moses spoke we need to remember to keep the Lord's Supper, and to remember the teaching of giving our firstfruits to God.

The Lord in that night of the Passover in which he took his people out of Egypt, he put to death the firstborn in Egypt for man and for beasts, but He spared the firstborn for the Israelites for man and beasts, that is why He commanded them and even we today to give our firstfruits to God. Now churches they teach about the salvation of Jesus and the teaching of the Lord's Supper but they fail and forget to teach about giving the firstfruits. *Therefore we should not forget the teaching of salvation and we need to preach the message of Jesus and His death on the cross: and we should not forget the teaching of the*

Lord's Supper and we should practice it: and we should not forget the teaching of giving the firstfruits and we should practice that.

2. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8 KJV) We need to remember to work six days and to rest on the seventh day. ***“And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy 5:15 KJV)*** Servants without rest they will be exhausted, therefore we need to rest one day per a week so we can do our work fresh in the next week. God reminded them while they were in Egypt they were not giving a day rest, and they were pressurized and they know how much it is painful to work without rest. Now he is instructing them to observe this new rule of God in their lives. *Therefore and in the same way we need to observe even this rule of God in our lives, to keep one day per week for rest, so that we will be relieved and those working with us from the work pressure and we will not be stressed or depressed because of lack of rest.*

3. “38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: 39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them ; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring. 40 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.” (Numbers 15:38-40 KJV) Here Moses commanded them to do fringes from clothes, like ribbons on the sides of their dress so when they will see it, that will remind them not to go and do their own and what they wish, but to go and obey the commands of God and to live a holy life. I always advice you to read daily the Word of God in your Bible so you will not go astray from Him as you are guided by His Word that you daily read in your Bible. ** When you read your Bible you will remember the Word of God and His commands, then you will do. If you don't read then you will not remember and if you don't remember then you will not do and finally you will only do your own. * The first sign of backsliding is non reading the Bible, and that will cause those who does not read to go astray.*

4. “And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.” (Deuteronomy 8:2 KJV) ** Remember that all the trials that God allowed you to pass through in all your life was to humble you and to test you through hardship to see if you will obey the Lord your God. * It is easy to obey God through peace and lack of troubles but it is more noble things to keep obedience during trials. * When He says to humble you, He means to bend you to do His will, it may take long time to do that because of your resistance, and for the Lord to overcome your resistance He will give you more trials to restrict you in order to direct you to do His will.* Even over 40 years the Israelites were resisting God and refusing to humble down to Him.

5. “But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.” (Deuteronomy 8:18 KJV) ** You need to remember that God had given you power*

to make wealth, and this power will take place in your life when you start to obey the commands of God. * Those who obey God they are good steward of the material things that God gave them, and they can translate their material things into heavenly treasures when they invest them in God's Kingdom, and they will have treasures on earth and treasures in Heaven.

6. "12 And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee. 13 And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: 14 Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him. 15 And thou shalt **remember** that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day." (Deuteronomy 15:12-15 KJV) Here God spoke to them about those who were poor among them who sold themselves for service so that they can live; He instructed them that for six years they will serve but on the seventh year they will be given their freedom and they will send them out filled with supply. He reminded them that they were bondmen, slaves in Egypt but were redeemed by the Lord and sent out filled with good things. * In the same way for us today as the Lord redeemed us from sin and death and paid our debts and supplied us well, we need to be merciful to our brethren and not to take advantage of them, we need to pay them when we ask them to do us services. They are in need and we need to give them their needs and supply them with what essential things they need. * This reminds us not to take advantage of people and not to abuse them. * This sin of taking advantage and using people is well known in the churches. Many they use the church and they abuse the brethren and take advantage of them in the name of the Lord; therefore we need to repent of such.

7. "12 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes." (Deuteronomy 16:12 KJV) In the book of Deuteronomy chapter 16 the Lord mentioned to the Israelites the feasts that they were called to keep and celebrate, the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Firstfruit (the feast of the weeks), and the Feast of the Tabernacles. He told them they were in bondage before in Egypt where they were having the common idols of the Egyptians, for the Israelites were worshipping the idols of the Egyptians when they were in Egypt, therefore He is telling them now to observe the Word of God and His commands. Even for us today before we come to Christ we were observing the feasts of the world but now after knowing Christ and His Word we need to follow Him and move away from all the idolatry practices that the churches allowed to enter inside them like birthday celebrations, Mother and Father Day, Valentine Day, Christmas and New year celebration, Halloween, All Saints Day, church activities, etc. So we need to remember not these wrong things and practice them but we need to observe the Word and the commands of God. Some people they asked me how you know that the people they were not celebrating their birthday because it is not written in the Bible. My answer to this question is from Deuteronomy 16; God had ordained for them what to observe and celebrate and so they cannot keep aside these feasts to observe their own birthdays. Imagine someone would say to the priest I cannot make it on Pentecost because I am celebrating my birthday. Those arrangements continued until Jesus and in the day of Pentecost the early church was filled with the Holy Spirit and such celebrations for birthdays and other feasts were not observe in the early church.

8. "Remember what the LORD thy God did unto Miriam by the way, after that ye were come forth out of Egypt." ((Deuteronomy 24:9 KJV) He is reminding them of how the Lord smote Miriam with leprosy when she was insolent in her talk to Moses. God want us to remember that He shall judge those who will behave in insolent way against the church leader who do his work correctly.

9. "16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin. 17 Thou shalt not pervert the judgment of the stranger, nor of the fatherless; nor take a widow's raiment to pledge: 18 But thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee thence: therefore I command thee to do this thing." (Deuteronomy 24:16-18 KJV) Here the Lord require from us to practice justice and righteousness. We should remember, not to judge the children for the sins of their fathers, nor shall the parents be judged for the sins of their children. God had showed them mercy in Egypt and redeemed them and saved them from injustice; even for us today, God had saved us from the hands of devil and showed us mercy through Christ and His work on the cross. God also delivers us from injustice and the abuse of men. Therefore He wants us to remember that today and we need to show mercy and justice to others and not to let the righteous got affected by the punishment that inflicted on the wicked.

10. "19 When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. 20 When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. 21 When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. 22 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt: therefore I command thee to do this thing." (Deuteronomy 24:19-22 KJV) Here the Lord reminded them to be merciful to the poor, the strangers, the fatherless, and the widows and allow them and leave for them, to glean their fields, vineyards and their oliveyards to get food from them. He reminded them that God showed them mercy while they were in Egypt and as they know the painful taste of being slave then he requested them to be kind to the poor. In the same way for us today, before we come to know Christ we were sad, in troubles, no joy and no faith or assurance, but now as we are filled with His Spirit and well provided by Him we are called to be kind to others and to be merciful to them, the poor and needy, the strangers, the fatherless and widows, the sick and the rest who are under privileges and help them to earn their daily food and drink and their other essential needs.

My dear and beloved: Let us stand now in God's presence and let us commit ourselves to observe and to do what we had been reminded today to do, so that sins will be cleansed from our lives and that we will do what God had brought again in front of our eyes to do.

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 revived me and made me wake up.

Confess your sins now to God. Lord forgives me the following sins _____. Forgive me Lord that I forgot to do the following_____. Lord I commit myself to observe the following commands of you _____.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to preach your Word and will observe the things that you wants me to remember and keep in my life so my life will be a good example and testimony to others.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word, repented of their sins and are willing to live their lives and serve you in doing the things that you wants me to remember and keep. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord use their lives to be good example to others and will be attracted to you.

Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord revive us and fill us once again with the Holy Spirit to go on and serve you. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church and fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in Peace with Implementing the Whole Will of God'. 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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