

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 73

“25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. 26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.” (Matthew 5:25-26 KJV)

We will continue in this message studying further application for this Word of Jesus, that when you fail to pay what is due for you toward God or to men you will be directed towards the higher or next level authority in order to deal with your wrong doing. **The authorities that had been placed on earth by God are the family, the church, the government offices. And they are called to deal with the sins of the people, and when those authorities fail God and neglect to do their responsibilities the Lord will take over and send His wrath.**

5. Non paying what is due to our workers: “1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.” (Colossians 4:1 KJV) “9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.” (Ephesians 6:9 KJV) God here also admonishing the masters to fear God and to give their servants what is due for them, and not to threaten them or treat them badly, reminding them that they have a master in Heaven, who has no respect of person and He may judge them if they will abuse their workers. God also here is telling them to give what is due for them and what they agreed upon and treat them justly when He said, **“give unto your servants that which is just and equal.”** The Lord was reminding them not to use their power to threaten their workers when He said to them, **“forbearing threatening”**; that they should be patient and not to go ahead and trouble those who were under them. Most likely the power that the masters will use to threaten, it comes from money and its influence, and they will use that to threaten the poor and the powerless.

James further warned the rich people who were masters over workers, that they needed to give their workers what is due for them of wages and rights, and warning them that their treasures will be rusted if they will be withholding the right of their workers. Let us read what he wrote: **“1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.” (James 5:1-6 KJV)**

“1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.” (James 5:1 KJV) James was warning the rich that they will go into weeping by the miseries and the troubles that will come upon them for the sins that they had done in taking the rights of the poor. There are rich people they will spend much on food, parties, giving gifts, but they will delay giving the salaries of their employees. **Sometime you**

don't pay what is due to you to others but you spent on other things that are not important; repent of that for such is sin.

“2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.” (James 5:2-3 KJV) He was telling them that their riches were affected and corrupted by the plagues of God, because of abusing the poor workers and withholding their wages. Their costly clothes that the rich were wearing had been affected and eaten by the moth and spoiled and God allow that as punishment to them. Clothes at the time of writing the Bible were a costly matter. Those who crucified Jesus they got what he was wearing by divided His clothes and they cast lot on His vesture. Why it was costly? Because all were hand-made and there was no machine on that time to make fabrics. So it was costly and more if it was of silk or purple which were of a high cost value.

Not only with their clothes as well as God is doing the same with the rich people in pertain to their gold and silver that will be cankered which means either:

- Pest that progressively eats what is grown from plants or infecting and killing animals and cattle.
- Plague that spreading and destroying as now in COVID 19.
- Cancer that spread and invade different places in the body and cause progressive impairment and finally death.
- Scourge it means burned fields that all the crops are consumed by fire

Their gold and silver will also be rusted which means corrosion, and oxidation that eats the metals. Pure gold cannot be rust but when it rust it means the hand of God against it. All these bad effects and changes will happen as witness against their wickedness and the abuse that they had done to the people who were working in their business. What they collected of treasures will be brought to destruction and that will be their judgment at the end. James was warning them, that if they will not repent, they will loss what they gained in an dishonest way, and more than that they will be end up in hell fire. Why? Let us read:

“4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.” (James 5:4 KJV) Because they kept the hire of the laborers who reaped their fields; they withheld it from them in fraudulent way by announcing bankruptcy. But the truth they had used it for another purpose to spend on their pleasures, and that caused the poor workers to cry to God for their rights and what their labor deserve of wages that they agreed upon, but the rich withheld from them and spent on themselves and their pleasures. That is why they cried to God and their cries reached to Heaven and God considered the sin of the rich toward the poor and judged them. James explained it further from Deuteronomy: **“15 At his day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the LORD, and it be sin unto thee.” (Deuteronomy 24:15 KJV)** Poor laborers are depending on what they earn on the day to spend on their needs. So when they are not given their wages they will not eat, so they will not have strength for the next day work. What they will do with hungry stomach? They will cry to

God to the Lord of sabaoth. The Lord of the sabaoth is the Lord of hosts, the Lord of the armies of angels and the Lord of all men, He is Almighty and He is able to take revenge of the rich, and gives the rights to the poor.

Sometimes when you mismanage your finances and spend them on unnecessary things or on your pleasures then you are not giving to the workers that you hire what is due for them, and you are not giving to the government, to the people, to the church and to God what is due for them, and in such you are sinning; therefore repent of all of such.

“5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.” (James 5:5 KJV) They spent well on themselves, wanton and lived in pleasure, desiring lot of things to eat and drink, well nourished, well satisfied the desires of their hearts, but they refused to pay the poor laborers their rights, Not only that, but they condemned them, killed the just and those who did not resist them just in order to withhold giving their rights or to cover up their sins of not giving them their dues, ***“6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.” (James 5:6 KJV)*** Because of such evil deeds the judgment of God will come on them.

“Ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter”: What they had received from pamperers to their bodies from the wages of their laborers that they withheld will be a good preparation to them to be slaughtered as a fatty animal that prepared and fattened by special food and to make it ready for slaughter. So what they had collected in unjust, frauding and cheating ways will be taken from them, and to be given as God determine to those whom He wants to give.

Even today there are many abuses in the past from the rich people who withhold the wages and the rights of the laborers, that is why God brought COVID 19 and had caused economic collapses everywhere to settle accounts with the rich people, to take from them the treasures that they earned in wrong ways, and give it to whom God wanted to give.

6. Not paying tithes in full and failing to bring our offerings and the firstfruits: “6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. 7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? 8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:6-12 KJV) Here God was speaking to His people how they had gone away from Him, ***“ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them”*** as if they are rubbing or stealing from God, by withholding their tithes and offerings unto God. God was telling them, ***“Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?”*** They were not aware that when they were withholding their tithes and offerings from God they were moving away from God and that God was also moving away from them. Why? Because when

they will withhold giving their tithes, their firstfruits and their offerings that will cause the Levites and the priests who supposed to be supported by such ordinance of God to leave their posts in the temple of God and go for work to earn living. and in such a situation the house of God, the church, will be left neglected. That is why God said, ***“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.” (Malachi 3:9 KJV)*** When you withhold what is due to be given to God from tithes, firstfruits and offerings, you in effect will be under the curse of God because you had robbed God. You will be under the justice of God and you are arrested by God’s justice and no blessing will fall on you until you bring back to God what is due for Him. How you will correct that? By bringing back your tithes, firstfruits and offerings unto God.

Jesus said, ***“And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar’s, and unto God the things which be God’s.” (Luke 20:25 KJV)*** We need to pay what is due to God and what is due to the government. Failing to bring our tithes, offerings and our firstfruits to the Lord’s storehouse is another kind of stealing. We are literally robbing God.

We are also required not to delay to bring what is due to God: Let us read: ***“Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.” (Exodus 22:29 KJV)*** Here we are taught not to delay to give the firstfruits to God. You need to know that the firstfruits are different from the tithes. We need to bring our tithes, we need to give our offerings, and we need to give our firstfruits to God.

You may say too much, and How we will live? ***We live by the open windows of Heaven.*** When you bring your tithes and the rest of what is due to God the Lord shall open the windows of Heaven and bless you that you have no place to keep your blessings. God said about that to prove this promise of God when you give your tithes to Him, ***“10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10 KJV)*** The Lord also promised that He will rebuke the devourer from your life, ***“11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:11 KJV)*** * Why you need to be honest to bring your tithes in full to God? Because there is insurance with that, for the Lord will rebuke the devourers which can be pest that will kill your cattle and destroy what you farm, sickness, you spend on medicine, maintenance, unnecessary bills and expenditures, spending it on tax, penalties, you lost your wallet, you lost your mobile, car accident, traffic fines, people cheating you, you pay high interest, people borrow from you and will not return, people taking advantage from you; you start business and it will fail, or you loss your job, fail in exams, fail in driving license, or troubles in your dependents that caused you to spend more, or your hard long years labor, and at the end you will have no profit, no saving and no capital or pension for the future sustenance. * All these examples I had heard them from people who fail to give to God what is due to Him and I have many real stories of such true events that is why I teach the people tithing.

The following are reasons why you need to obey God today and bring what is due for him: ***First***, to live on and enjoy the windows of heaven, put in your mind your salary is not enough but when you give your tithes then God will open the windows of Heaven and

you will have plenty and you will not know where to put because they are too much, *Second*, you will live without pests and without devourers, and *Third*, the people and the nations around you will witness that you are blessed by the Lord: ***“12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts.”*** (Malachi 3:12 KJV)

My dear and beloved: Come now to the Lord in repentance after hearing His Word. About those who tithe but not yet giving their firstfruits then commit yourself to God to do it. Those who had not heard about giving the firstfruits or those who have questions about it, please let us know so we can answer you and send you the teaching. Those who are not tithing, now is the time for you to decide to tithe.

If you are withholding the wages of those who are employed under you then you need to repent of such and start to give them their pending dues and salaries. Give what is due to the people, give what is due to the church, give what is due to the government offices, and give what is due to God as prove for your repentance and in such a way you are making peace with God. Come to the Lord and be willing to serve Him in obeying His instructions that we learned from His Word.

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 I thank you for your Word that show me what are the things that I needed to do and commit life to practice.

Confess now your sins and renounce all your wrongdoings. Renounce your wrong spending, and lack of giving what is due to God, to His church, to the government and to the people around you and those who are working for you. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to abide with the instructions that I received today from this message. Lord I commit myself to give what are due to you from tithes, offerings and firstfruits, and to pay what are due to the government from tax, fines and penalties. Lord I commit myself to obey the rules and the regulations of the governments and those who are in authority. Lord I commit myself to be a good example in all those aspects so others will follow and do the same.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who committed themselves to live their lives for you and to serve you. Lord use their lives and their good testimonies to bring others to you. Lord bless them, protect them and provide all their needs.

Lord bless us as a church and refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts to go on and serve you. Lord help us to evangelize and teach your Word and make disciples and train workers, and 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. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 73. Pay back your trespasses. Matthew 5:25-26. Colossians 4:1. Ephesians 6:9. James 5:1-6. Deuteronomy 24:15. Malachi 3:6-12. Luke 20:25. Exodus 22:29.

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