

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 74

“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 continue in this message studying the application when you fail to pay or to give what is due to man, to the government, to the church or to God, what will be the effect of such actions of yours. We spoke about tithing, giving the firstfruits and your offerings to God. We will continue today to speak in more details in pertain to what you need to give to God.

“31 And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.” (Leviticus 27:31 KJV) When you redeem something or delay to give what is due to God then you ought to add one fifth of the amount when you pay it back to God. Delay payment causes you penalty. That is why when you delay doing your assignments and not on time that will cause you to suffer penalties. **Redeeming is when you replace material value to money value, and in doing such you need to add an additional one fifth to the amount that you need to give.** For example when you change five sheep value that you need to give to God to an amount of money, then you need to add the fifth to the amount. If you have 100 pieces of bananas its tithe is 10 pieces. If you want to give money instead of this 10 pieces of bananas then you give the value of it in money adding to the amount the fifth. For example if the value of bananas is 10 in money, the fifth of it is 2, so the total that you need to give to God is $10 + 2 = 12$.

Also, we should not take the good things for us and throw the bad things to God, “32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. 33 He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.” (Leviticus 27:32-33 KJV) Some people they will give to God what they want to throw and they will keep the good things for themselves but such action will not be in favor to them. **We need to understand all these things so we will be aware that when we disobey God and withhold from Him what is due for Him then there will be lacking in His blessings toward us in regard to finances or material blessings.**

“6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? 7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. 8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts. (The people of God were offering defective sacrifices to the Lord; the lame, the blind, or the sick animal they will bring to the Lord. The priests of God should teach the people of how to honor the Lord by bringing to Him what is due to Him. But they were not doing that because they didn't want to offend the people instead they wanted to please them. God is asking here where is the honor that belongs to Him and where is the

fear that belongs to Him. The priests were accepting the defective sacrifices from the people and offer them on the altar of God. * **They were not ashamed of God, and God was telling them and is telling us today, Will your governor accept that if you offer to them? That is why now everywhere the fees of the government is more because people do not fear God and do not pay to God what is due for Him and do not honor God, so now God is using the government of the world to discipline His own people, and to discipline His pastors and the church leaders who did not honor God and disciplined His people and taught them how to give what is due to God. * That is why now what people refuse to give to God they are paying it now to the government authorities and is exacted from the people by force).** **9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts. 10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.** (Since they were not willing to honor God, the Lord was not willing to accept any offering from them. He is telling them that their offerings were not acceptable). **11 For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.** (He was telling them that others, the Gentiles, are honoring Him better than they, and what He meant also here is that He will raise up other people to honor Him if His people will refuse to give what is due for Him. Sometime you think that if you will not give to God what is due for Him, no one will do as well. You think yourself that you are better than others and you are fine. But here the Lord is telling them that they should not think that He cannot manage without them but He can raise other people from other nations, the Gnetiles, who do not know God and will change their lives and they will be willing to honor God. **If you will resist and refuse to honor God, He is able and He will raise other people to fear Him and to honor Him).** **12 But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, The table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is contemptible. 13 Ye said also, Behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the LORD of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the LORD.** (For them God was a burden. For them God should not demand. For them God should accept all the contemptible things that they wanted to throw. They were bringing what they wanted to throw to the Lord, and the Lord here was telling them that He will not accept that from them because this is disrespect toward God). **14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.” (Malachi 1:6-14 KJV)** The Lord announced His curses on them when they offered and brought the defective animals and the defective sacrifices to God. He called them deceivers and cheaters when they withheld the good things from God and brought the bad quality things to Him. In my country almost all nuns had come from poor Catholic villages families, who follow no birth control, have many children, and they give their daughters to be nuns not to honor God but they will use God to feed and raise their children. In my country the family who has a child who is not good in school they will offer him to be a priest. If he is intelligent they will not do that; but they will put him in school and they will let him finish good college and have good job. **God sees such attitude and deal with our evil intent. I believe that you also have similar examples of such. The point here is that you need to honor God so He will honor you.**

7. The paying back of the seventy years that the people of God did not give rest to the land: According to the law of God to His people the Israelites that they will farm the land that He gave to them for six year and on the seventh year, they will not farm it and they will not harvest it but will give to it a sabbath rest, and they and the people with them will eat what grows by itself but they will not harvest. *“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. 3 Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; 4 But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. 5 That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land. 6 And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee.”* (Leviticus 25:1-6 KJV)

The challenge for them was how they can manage their lives if they will not farm? The Lord gave them the promise and the provision for that as we can read here: *“20 And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase: 21 Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years. 22 And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.”* (Leviticus 25:20-22 KJV) God told them that He will provide for them but they need to obey Him. The product of the sixth year will be more than what they need, it will be enough for three years, for the sixth, the seventh and the eight years, and will maintain them until the beginning of the ninth year. But they did not obey the law of God and for many years that they lived in the land they did not observe the sabbath rest of the land in addition to other sins that they were doing, so what God did to them, He allowed the Babylonians to come and invade the land and they took His people prisoners to Babylon and they were forced to leave their lands, so the land was at rest from them. The due rest that they refused to give to the land the Lord took it from them by force.

What you refuse to give to God, the Lord will take it from you not in a peaceful way but in trouble. Do not be deceived the Lord will fulfill His Word, He is the judge and He is the lawgiver. Do not be deceived by other teachings that the Lord will not judge you or He will not allow such to happen. He will do it sure!

The people of God when they were sent to Babylon, they were having some prophets there with them who were telling them you will go back soon to your place. But the prophet Jeremiah wrote to them from Jerusalem and sent to them that they will stay there seventy years to pay the penalty of not giving the sabbath rest to the land. If 70 years was the penalty, multiplied it by 6, one year for a six years, then the total numbers of years that they did not observe the sabbath rest of the land was 420 years. So they need to pay 70 years the penalty of it; no work, no harvest, and no income. Have you seen lands that are rich but not planted? They are under the curse of God because their owners did not give to the land rest and did not honor the command of God so God caused it to be desolate.

Do not entertain other teaching and other preachers who will tell the opposite. God sent His Word through the prophet Jeremiah to tell those who were taken captive that they

will stay seventy years in captivity, and He is sending us His Word today to teach us to pay what is due for us and to teach us how to live our lives unto Him. Let us read **Jeremiah 29:1-14.**

“1 Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon; 2 (After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;) 3 By the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, (whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent unto Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) saying, 4 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; 5 Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; 6 Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished. 7 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. 8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. 9 For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD. 10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.” (Jeremiah 29:1-14 KJV)

His people in Babylon were entertaining other false prophets with them in Babylon who were telling them that they will go back home soon. They were just speaking such to please the people, but God in verse 8 and 9 told them do not allow them to deceive you and He added that He did not send them. **Who are those false prophets? They are your friends, colleagues and neighbors who will just say words agreeing with you in order to please you but they are not sent of God. They agree with you because you are insisting to go into the direction, but that direction is against God's will.**

Be assured that God shall fulfill His judgment and you need to bear that. But God will not forget you. God here promised in verse 10 that after they will finish seventy years, the punishment of their sins, He will be the one to bring them back to their land. *** There will be a time that God shall bring you back to certain places, but mean while you need to do your new assignments. God is not intending to punish you to destroy you but He is a God of justice and need to implement His Word and to teach you the lesson. * God had good thoughts toward you and toward us.** He told them in verse 5 to build houses and gardens and to settle in the new place that He put them. In verse 6 He suggested to them to marry and have sons and daughters, as well as He instructed them to let their children marry and

have children so they will increase and not decrease. **So God wants you to settle, to think wisely, and to start family, to get increase in number, these all are the good thoughts of God and His provision to us and those who are with us.** In verse 7 He instructs them to pray and seek the peace of the city that they were sent so when it prosper they will also prosper. *** That is why wherever we are placed by God He wants us to think positively and pray for the blessings of God to flow in those places so we too will be prosperous. * God has good thoughts toward us when we are willing to bear the justice and the punishment of God. God's thought to you is good and not evil. The thoughts of God are to prosper you. "11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11 KJV)** *** You will start to know those thoughts when you start to call upon God, pray to God, and He will answer you "12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you." (Jeremiah 29:12 KJV)** *** And when you will seek Him you will find Him, and will find His will when you seek Him with all your heart, "13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13 KJV)**

My dear and beloved: How many of you want to give your heart to the Lord. Come to Jesus and give Him your heart and open your heart to Him. **"14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive."** (Jeremiah 29:14 KJV) The Lord shall set you free from your sins and bondages and what you entangled with, and will help you and He will restore you to the good plans that He had for you. Leave now your old plans and your old ways and come fresh to God and have a new blessed start with Him from this day onward.

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. I thank you Lord for your Word that is showing me where I fail you in your, and the good thoughts and the good plans that you have for me.

Confess now your sins and renounce all your wrongdoings. Renounce your lack of giving the right amount towards God, and giving the bad quality things to Him. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____. Lord I am willing to bear the consequences of my sins and wrongdoings.

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 the fifth if I had redeemed and withheld what is due to you. Lord I commit myself to honor you by giving the best of what I have to you, and to teach the people to give their best to you. Lord I am willing to observe the sabbath rest for the land that I use to farm.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who committed themselves to live their lives for you and to serve you. Lord reveal your good plans for them and fulfill all your good thoughts in their lives. Lord protect them, sustain them, and give them perseverance, patience and long-suffering until what you had promised come true in their lives.

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 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. 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 74. Pay back your trespasses. Matthew 5:25-26. Leviticus 27:31-33. Malachi 1:6-14. Leviticus 25:1-6, 20-22. Jeremiah 29:1-14

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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