

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 77***

***“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 to study the application of what Jesus said and how He wants us to be faithful to God and to man by paying back what is due for us to God, to the church, to the people and to the governments.

***10. Don't be a guarantor: “26 Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. 27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?” (Proverbs 22:26-27 KJV)*** Here another warning if you had put yourself as a guarantor and there are documents about that, then you will be forced to pay. The meaning of ***“Sureties for debts”*** are guarantor for somebody else debts.

Biblically, the borrower is a slave to the lender. ***“The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” (Proverbs 22:7 KJV)*** In the parable of Jesus that He spoke about forgiveness, He spoke about the servant who had debt to his master and was not able to pay how his master wanted to put him in jail: ***“25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.” (Matthew 18:25-26 KJV)*** Your debts you need to settle them down. If you are guarantor then you are in debt.

There are others who stand guarantor or sponsor for someone who borrows money and pledge themselves to save their friend. When your friend fails to pay then those creditors will come and trouble you. The Bible does not justify you to be a guarantor for someone else: ***“1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, 2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. 3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. 4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. 5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.” (Proverbs 6:1-5 KJV)*** You need to go and free yourself otherwise they will force you to pay, even to the point that you will be forced to sell your things to pay them. We might be called to help, but to be a guarantor the wrong in it is that you are taking the responsibility of others and doing them. They should pay their own debts and not you. Some people they go and borrow money and give it to others, that is also wrong, because you are doing other people responsibilities and not yours.

God will not change His mind and His Word. God does not protect those who become surety for others and stand guarantor for them. The Scripture shows that those who do that lack wisdom: ***“A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.” (Proverbs 17:18 KJV)*** They become guarantor to support their friends, but God hates that. Even if you are doing it to a stranger God hates you to do that, ***“Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.” (Proverbs 20:16 KJV)*** Why? Because that is

his responsibility is to pay his debt. You can help but don't be a guarantor. Therefore we need to hate what God hates to be sure. ***“He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretyship is sure.” (Proverbs 11:15 KJV)*** We should not stand guarantor for a strange man and undergo much loss. If we will hate to do that, then we will be safe.

***11. Moses was able to face those who rebelled against him and told God that he did not take anything from anyone of them: “15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.” (Numbers 16:15 KJV)*** Moses told to God about those who were opposing him that he did not take anything from them and he did not hurt them. We should not use our position to make a profit or harm others.

***12. Samuel confronted the people that he ruled and judged, that he did not take anything from any one of them: “3 Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you. 4 And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.” (1 Samuel 12:3-4 KJV)*** At the occasion of appointing to them a new king, Samuel confronted the people if he had taken anything from them, or took advantage of them, and he was willing to restore it. We know what is taking ox or taking donkey. The meaning of defraud is to deceive, cheat, swindle, trick, take advantage, or use the people for his personal things. The meaning of oppressed is breaking, exploiting, or subjugating a person by doing things out of the Word of God or the will of God to gain money or other resources. But that does not mean to let people do what they believe. There is no democracy in the church but we do what God wants us to do. Those who are not willing, finally themselves they will leave the church. But we as church and church leaders don't allow people to oppress us by their wrong doctrine of life. We may bear patiently with some people until they change their ways, but we will not allow them to change the teaching and the doctrines that God's Word teach us; finally they will leave the church themselves. In that occasion that we read in ***1 Samuel 12:3-4*** the people rejected Samuel and asked to have a king instead of him. Samuel approved what they wanted because God told him give them what they asked and God explained to him that the people rejected God and not Samuel. Therefore Samuel confronted them in that day that he confirmed the kingdom to the new king.

***13. Paul was willing to pay Philemon whatever Onesimus had taken from Philemon to free Onesimus:*** Onesimus was a slave to Philemon but he did wrong and run away from him. Philemon was a believer, but Onesimus was non believer. When he ran from his master he was caught and was put in jail, and there he met Paul who was in prison because of his faith in preaching Christ. Paul preached to Onesimus the gospel and Onesimus repented and believed and he started to follow Christ and time came that he will be released and here Paul instructed him to go to his master whom Paul knew, and for this reason Paul wrote a letter to Philemon, which was placed in the Bible, endorsing back to him Onesimus and requesting him to forgive him and accept him. Saying to him the following: ***“17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. 18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; 19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.” (Philemon 1:17-19 KJV)***

Here Paul also expressed his willingness to pay on behalf of Onesimus if he has any debt for his master, Philemon, when he said, ***“If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;”*** with that Paul will not be blamed that he had caused any financial loss for Philemon. But Paul also reminded Philemon that he, Philemon, needs to pay Paul his own self, ***“albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.”*** (Philemon 1:19 KJV) This here it show the importance to pay back the spiritual debt to those who taught us the Word of God and show us the way. Do we need to remind those whom we had offered them good things and served them, to pay us back? Paul reminded Philemon and requested him to pay back. Yes we need to do that and ask them to pay when they are challenged to do the same for us or to others and they are refusing, or when we see they are unfaithful. So Paul was on his guard to write this so Philemon will be compelled to obey the instructions of Paul. I had done that with those who are unfaithful, who left the church after they received good things from God and from the church. I had requested them to pay back what due on them to pay.

Upon a spiritual account we can present ***Matthew 5:25-26*** as the following: ***“Agree with thine”*** reconcile and make peace with your ***“adversary”*** who is the justice of God or God Himself who is demanding you the payment of debts that you need to pay for your sins and shortcoming toward God and men; ***“quickly”*** don’t delay to do that, delaying is disobedience; ***“whiles thou art in the way with him”***, while you are in this present life, while you are still alive and aware and while you are asked to do what is right and to pay what is due for you; because ***“lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge,”*** you cannot tell which time you will die and you cannot tell which time God will send His judgment on you; ***“the judge”***, is God himself, Jesus Christ; ***“and the judge deliver thee to the officer,”*** ***“the officer”***, is the devil, the accuser, who will tell to God your sins, and God will listen to that because that is needed to be corrected; ***“and thou be cast into prison.”*** The ***“prison”*** is the discipline of God while you are alive, or it is the pit of hell and the eternal fire after death; ***“Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence,”*** Assure yourself of it which express the impossibility of the debtor’s release. The creditor will compel the debtor, and the debtor will be forced to go with him to the higher authority. There is no way for you to escape the trial of payment unless you pay to the last penny, ***“the uttermost farthing”***, the least sin, which will never be remitted without repentance and satisfaction to the person we offended and the damages that we had done by such sin to God, to the church, to man and to the governments. Put also in your mind that there is no way that you will come out from hell if you are already there so better repent now.

***“23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”*** (Matthew 5:23-24 KJV) The design of reconciliation is presented as lawsuits about debts, ‘Go, and be reconciled to thy brother, be just to him, be friendly with him’, because while the quarrel continues, you are unfit to bring your gift to the altar, unfit to pray, unfit to come to the table of the Lord, unfit to serve God, and so you are unfit to die: if you persist in this sin, there is danger that you be suddenly snatched away by the wrath of God, whose judgment you cannot escape and will end up in hell which is for a prison, and for all that live and die in malice and uncharitableness and wickedness; they will end up there, and no way out of that prison to escape.

In all these examples that we discussed, ultimately the offended person is God and we need to reconcile to Him through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, agree with your adversary, who is God and His Word and His will, and do quickly what He is asking from you while you are in the way of this life. Don’t be arrogant with God. It is our concern to agree with God, to acquaint ourselves with Him and be friend with Him and restore our friendship with Him, that we may be at peace, ***“Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.”*** (Job. 22:21 KJV) When you humble yourself before God and obey Him, and be at peace with Him, new good things and blessings will come into your life. ***“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.”*** (2 Corinthians 5:20 KJV) It is our wisdom to do this quickly, while we are in the way, while we are still alive because after death, it will be too late to do it; therefore give no sleep to your eye until it is done. Christ is the Judge, to whom non repented sinners will be delivered to be judged; for all judgment is committed to the Son. Those who continue in a state of enmity to God are continually exposed to the arrests of His justice, and the most dreadful instances of His wrath while they are alive, and they will remain in eternal fire forever if death reached them while they were still in enmity towards God.

***My dear and beloved:*** Time for you now to repent, to humble down, to renew your mind and to consider the Scripture that you studied and to apply them in your life. God is patience, but don’t abuse Him. As well as He will not allow you to abuse Him forever. Reconcile with God, amend your ways, repent of all your sins, agree with Him and let His blessings be restored to you.

Come now to the Lord in repentance and be willing to comply with the Word of Jesus to be accountable and pay back what is due to you to God and to man. Be willing to comply with the message and be willing to be counseled to solve your financial problem so you can live in obedience to God’s plan for you and yours.

***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 showed me my wrong doings and where I had failed you and how I need now to correct my ways to please you and to do your will.

Confess and renounce the following sins; making yourself guarantor to others, taking advantage of others who were under your guidance and care, not paying back to what you received from teaching and training, your delay obedience and delaying to reconcile with God and man and delaying in paying what is due for you. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and are willing to amend their ways and to pay back what is due for them towards you and men. Lord sustain them and give them perseverance to endure the discipline that you ordained for them to pass through in order to achieve your will.

Lord bless us as a church to continue to teach and to implement your Word in our lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts to go on and serve you. Lord help us to evangelize and make disciples and train workers. Lord 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 77. Pay back your trespasses. Matthew 5:23-26. Proverbs 22:26-27. Proverbs 22:7. Matthew 18:25-26. Proverbs 6:1-5. Proverbs 17:18. Proverbs 20:16. Proverbs 11:15. Numbers 16:15. 1 Samuel 12:3-4. Philemon 1:17-19. Job. 22:21. 2 Corinthians 5:20.

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