

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 81

“33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: 34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: 35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. 36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. 37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” (Matthew 5:33-37 KJV)

“33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:” (Matthew 5:33 KJV) Here the Lord Jesus Christ reminded them and recalled of what is written in the book of the Law of God as we read here: ***“12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:12 KJV) “Thou shalt not forswear thyself” in Matthew 5:33, is the same of “And ye shall not swear by my name falsely”, and as we know that the Law of God forbid perjury, or false swearing. In addition to that what meant by “And ye shall not swear by my name falsely”, that you should not make a promise or an oath in vain, and that mean when you make a vow or commitment you need to keep it. In that taking the swearing vainly is the same as swearing falsely. Swearing was used to affirm certain truth or certain event had taken place. Some of them were swearing falsely to hide a sinful act or a crime and that is sin. As well as sin is when you make a promise or a vow, or swear to do something but you take it vainly and don't perform it. Taking it vainly is taking it lightly and in that is non willingness to fulfill what you promised and that is unfaithfulness.***

So what they were doing in addition to that to avoid being caught of what they were promised, they were swearing by the creatures, thinking they can cover up that wrong doing, but they were not aware that they were sinning. ***When you swear by any created thing, like you swear with your children, with your parents, or whatever person you swear with, this by itself is a sin, and when you do not perform what you promised you are committing another sin. * When you swear by other things you are still under the obligation to perform it. * By swearing by other things you are making the name of God of no use, as if you are violating the Law of God that says, “7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7 KJV)***

Vows and oaths were to be performed only to God as we read here, ***“2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.” (Numbers 30:2 KJV)*** Vows should not be made to others, but vows need to be made to His name.

What we promised to God we need to fulfill otherwise God has no delight in a fool.

“34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:” (Matthew 5:34 KJV)

“But I say unto you, Swear not at all;” What Jesus means here, not that you will not make a promise or commitment to God. But not to swear by created things as the Jewish

were doing to escape fulfilling what they vowed. ***Also neither to take a vow lightly and in rash without much thinking, and not to swear in a trivial matter.***

“neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:” Why they were swearing by Heaven or earth? Because the Jewish say that those who swear by Heaven and by earth are free and they don't need to fulfill their vows because these are created things. The reason why Christ forbade them to swear by Heaven? Because it is the God's throne, ***“for it is God's throne:” (Matthew 5:34 KJV)*** And that is a double sin; first it is sin that they did not perform their vows, second because they swear with created things, and third when they swear in Heaven they are swearing with God as we read, ***“22 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.” (Matthew 23:22 KJV)***

“35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.” (Matthew 5:35 KJV) Here for the same reason Christ forbade them to swear by the earth because the earth is created thing and it is the footstool of God, the place that God is putting his feet. Nor to swear by the city of Jerusalem because it is again a created thing and it is the city of Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

“36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.” (Matthew 5:36 KJV) Another thing the Jewish were swearing with, they were swearing with their own heads, and that is more sinful, as if they have the power of the Creator, forgetting that they were created things, and they have no power not only on their heads, but no power to turn one hair of their heads from white to black. Turning the color of the hair from white to black is the power to reverse the aging process and this is the power of God and belongs to Him and not to man.

“37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.” (Matthew 5:31-37 KJV) Here Christ was calling them to humble down and to adopt humility in their lives and know their size and they should behave in the way that they are speaking; to be truthful of what they were saying and speaking.

“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay:” When you agree and willing to do and you are making agreement say 'yea', and if you are not agreeing say 'nay', it means you are not promising, and you are not agreeing. When you want to speak in a stronger confirmation of the matter, when it is necessary, double these words, 'Yea, yea', 'Nay, nay', but let no swearing adding to them.

A righteous man's his yes, is yes, and his no, is no; his word is sufficient. The Lord Jesus does not want us to use the language of swearing to impress others that we are going to fulfill our promises. We know very well people would do promises just in order to break them. They do promises to deceive others and to impress them that they will fulfill what they promised just to receive what they are aiming for, and after they receive they will break their promise to God. Almost all those who left the church they had made very good promises but after they received what they were in need of they broke their promises and left the church.

Also Jesus does not want to swear because He does not want us to go into rash swearing without understanding and without the leading of God in our lives. The people of the world they speak rashly and for them swearing and promising and breaking their

promises are easy for them to do but that should not be the case with us as disciples and followers of Christ.

When we speak yea or nay is equivalent to an oath. ***“For whatsoever is more than these, cometh of evil.”*** that is, whatever exceeds this way of speaking and conversation, is either from the devil, who is the evil one who come to kill steal and destroy, or it comes from the evil heart of men, from the pride, boasting, showing off, malice, envy, greed, wrong motive, abusing the grace of God, hypocrisy, cheating, and the ungratefulness that are in them.

Now let us speak more about promising and not obeying Christ’s Word and fulfilling what we had promised to Him. Jesus said, ***“46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 KJV)*** When you call upon Jesus Lord, Lord, it means He is the Lord over your life. When you call upon the Lord to receive salvation, you need to do what He is saying to you. When you call upon the Lord then that is your oath and that is your promise to Him to follow Him and that He will be the Lord over your life. Many they will not obey the Word of Jesus and they will not do His will, but they will do their own will. Many they only use Jesus to meet their needs and solve their problems but they will not listen to Him when He calls them. What will be then the outcome of such attitude and unfaithfulness in breaking their promises with God?

1. Loss of their salvation: Jesus clearly said about those who do their own will, that they will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, ***“21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21 KJV)*** The Lord is not interested of what and the much that you do, but He is interested with you to do His will and fulfill the plan that He has for you and get integrated in the plan that He has for your family and for His church and for His people. If we are called Christians then we need to keep our oaths and our promises unto God having Jesus not only the savior but as well as the Lord over our lives..

Let us read what Jesus said, ***“22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:22-23 KJV)*** Whatever ministries and works you do with the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit of God, like prophesying, driving out demons in the name of Jesus, but you are not fulfilling the will of God then you are rejected by the Lord. Those who are negligent to fulfill their oaths and vows unto God and those who are keeping aside and not doing the whole will of God, Jesus will say to them the following: ***“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:23 KJV)*** They are evil doers, they just use the Lord to take privileges and advantages but no commitment or willingness to suffer for Him.

2. Loss of what they work for and achieved: Let us read *Ecclesiastes 5*, ***“1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. 2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. 3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool’s voice is known by multitude of words. 4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that***

which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? 7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.” (Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 KJV) The theme of this passage is that those who were going to the house of God, when they will take a vow or an oath, they need to fulfill what they had promised. Otherwise God has no delight in a fool. Such careless attitude and selfish behaviors toward God, using God, but not willing to be faithful to the promise that you did toward Him had a major bad consequences; with such God would destroy the work of your hands. Here God would challenge His people who did their vows to Him, He would use the minister of the temple, who is in this Scripture the angel of God as in verse 6, to remind them of their vows and promises that they made toward God and now they are lingering in fulfilling them.

Even today, me as the overseer of the Church of God UAE, I am compelled by the Holy Spirit of God to remind you of the promises that you made toward God to serve Him, to obey Him, to do His will, but now you are backing out of your promises and oaths, after you received from God what you are asking Him. This, what you are doing if you will not repent; will destroy the work of your hands and it will make you lose your salvation. Let us read what Jesus said in regard to those who are wise who are building their house on the rock who are hearing the Word of Jesus and putting into practice His Word and those foolish who build on the sand who are hearing the Word of Jesus but reject to fulfill them: ***“47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke:47-49 KJV)***

Wise builders are those who keep their vows and promises to God. They keep yea to God and they keep their nay to the devil. They take seriously what they had said to God. But the fool are those who break their yea to God and break their nay to the devil and move away to do foolish things that is against God and against His will.

Let us review ourselves with God and let us be reminded today of what we had promised that we did not fulfilled.

1. Serving God: How many of you promised God to serve Him, to do His will and to behave and walk humbly with Him if He would save you, provide for you, deliver you from troubles, healing you from a sickness, but after He did what you asked of Him you neglect God and gave him your back and your deaf ear? Nothing worse than to be called unfaithful by God and this will be the respond of God towards such: ***“13 Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:.” (Zechariah 7:13 KJV)*** **When God had done His part well toward you and rescue you, then you are such unfaithful, then wait that when you are in trouble, and you call upon God He will not listen to you as you are not listening to Him to come and fulfill what you promised Him.** From my experience in the ministry, many they keep praying for job to come, for certain problem to be solved, for certain

blessings to come, but after they received and are relieved they forgot God and when I go and remind them they will not respond for my admonition. They will not answer my call, or they will revile me, and even persecute me when I am reminding them to fulfill what they promised God. Many after they got the job they will refuse to give their tithes and their firstfruits to the Lord. They will avoid coming to church just in order not to pay what is due to them towards the Lord. Job and incomes are from God and when you are unfaithful to God then you are destroying the work of your hands.

2. Keeping the marriage covenant: I had seen people who prayed that God would give them a believer partner to serve God with them, but after God had given them and answered their prayers, they fought with and persecuted their partners who were serving God. Many who had prayed that God would give them a family but after marriage you find them very careless about that to keep the marriage covenant with their partner. I had seen many whom God had blessed them with a good partner but they are unfaithful to fulfill their marital responsibility toward their partner. Marriage covenant is a covenant with God and not a contract with man, therefore be aware and heed the warning of God.

3. Keeping children dedication to God: One of the common ceremonies that we do in the church is child dedication. The parents they want to give their children to the Lord but they are not willing to give themselves to God. Or they will dedicate their children to the Lord to bless their children, but when it is coming to fulfill the plan of God for their children, they will refuse to follow the plan of God for their children, but they will follow their own worldly plans toward the academic achievements even if that is against the plan of God. With such they are losing their children and the good future that God had for them. **Children are reward from the Lord, therefore when you are unfaithful to God and direct your children to worldly plans then you are not raising them on the Word of Jesus and with such you are foolish and is destroying them and destroying the work of your hand.**

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to the Lord. Examine yourself in God's presence and see how much you are unfaithful and in which areas of your life that you fail to fulfill your promise to God. Unfaithfulness causes you the destruction of the work of your hand, causes you losses, causes you tiredness, failures, regressions and even your salvation if you will not repent. Renounce all your vain vows and the cheating that you did with those vows to receive privileges.

Renew your commitment with God. Ask God forgiveness of what you did wrong with the Lord and come back and correct all your mistakes and start to fulfill all what you promised God and willingly follow Him and start to do His works and His will.

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. Thank you Lord for your Word that rebuked me and showed me where I broke my vows and promises to you which are considered sin.

Confess and renounce the sin of telling lies, cheating, unfaithfulness, breaking your vows and promises, doing your own will, not serving God and not responding to Him when He calls you. Confess your sins in non fulfilling your marital vows and your marital responsibilities toward your partner in life. Confess your sins of non fulfilling your vows as you dedicate your children to raise them up according to God's plan for

them and according to His will. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____ . Lord I commit myself once again to mend my ways and be willing to fulfill what I promised to serve you and to do my marriage responsibilities and my responsibilities to raise up my children according to the plan that you have for them.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and realized all their sins and where they failed you. Lord forgive them and restore them back to serve you and help them to mend their ways and lead them in the way that they should go as they repented of their sins and are willing to follow you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord make their lives and the lives of their families and children good testimonies to others to know you and to follow you.

Lord bless us as a church to continue to teach your Word and declare your will in the life of your church and your people. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and reach new people with the gospel of Jesus. Lord enable us to make new disciples and train more workers to serve you. Lord go before us and use us to plant new Bible studies and 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 81. Fulfill your promises. Matthew 5:33-37. Leviticus 19:12. Exodus 20:7. Numbers 30:2. Matthew 23:22. Luke 6:46. Matthew 7:21-23. Ecclesiastes 5:1-7. Luke 6:47-49. Zechariah 7:13.

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