

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 82

“38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: 39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.” (Matthew 38-41 KJV)

“38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:” (Matthew 38 KJV) Here the Lord was instructing them about what they had heard from the law of God, ***“24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” (Exodus 21:24-25 KJV)*** ***“Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.” (Leviticus 24:20 KJV)*** ***“And thine eye shall not pity; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.” (Deuteronomy 19:21 KJV)*** The hearers of the Lord Jesus at that time were Jewish and they knew these instructions. **Now, why God spoke about that in the Old Testament? Because God is a God of justice and those who do wrong need to repay the wrong things that they did. There is no doubt that they need to repay the price of what they did. That they need to compensate the person the loss that he got from their injury. If he lost his eye or his hand or feet, or his teeth or got a burn, in an assault with no cause, then the attacker should compensate that loss.**

Now why these need to be done? Someone may say that in Christ we need to forgive and let it go. That is correct. But the purpose of this law is not only justice and compensation, but when a man is crippled with one of those things how he can pursue his living. For example if he is working to get his living, how he will work and live if he got a burn, sure he need to stay without work for several weeks until he is healed. Now this period of loss of work need to be compensated. Now how about losing a hand or losing a foot or losing an eye, that also need to be compensated, so that his living will continue. The same of that we have today as we see the insurance companies are considering the amount of compensation according to the amount of loss after an accident or after medical intervention. But we know also how people use the insurance to get and extort more money and use the accident to make good capital.

How the Jewish were applying that law of God? We did not read in the Scriptures that such had happened and done in this way; that they will remove an eye for an eye or tooth for a tooth, etc. Although some would insist that the same would be done to the person who cause eye loss, or tooth loss or a burn or a loss of a foot or loss an hand and they want to apply the Word of God literally as we read here, ***“as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.” (Leviticus 24:20 KJV)*** But even if we would agree about that this Word of God would be applied literally it will not be possible for man to do it. Why? How if you would remove more than what is required or you cause more damage or the person die or caused him other harm because of the removal of his other parts? Or how if the trauma will cause less damage than what is required, then what needed to be done? Shall he smite again? We can see clearly here from practical point of view we cannot apply this Scripture literally.

But what was done in such situations, that the one who caused the damage would be paying enough money to the victim in order to compensate to him the loss of time so he can maintain his life and the damages he had sustained. If the damage is to a limb or foot or hand and person cannot work anymore, a servant might be given to satisfy the person who got a loss of one of his limbs.

Here the Lord is not against justice to prevail as we understood the meaning and the purpose of it is to maintain the life of the injured person to normal as much as possible, But Jesus brought that to light in order to forbid His hearers from revenge and retaliation which sometimes exceeded all just and due bounds; so they will not use such occasions to apply a private revenge, and to vent their anger and revenge against the person who hurt them.

“39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.” (Matthew 39 KJV) Now here Christ is telling us His instructions clearly.

“That ye resist not evil:” What He means here not that we will not protect ourselves, or resist the evil of sin, the bad actions or the false doctrines and the false teachings, or that we should not resist Satan, for the Scripture teach us to resist the devil. What if a man was attacked he will not resist evil? Because sometimes the devil will say to you Jesus say to you that you resist not evil in order to force you to compromise and to do wrong. But what Jesus means here is that we should not resist the injury we receive with other injury we do, and we must not pay evil for evil or repay those who hurt us in the same way. That flesh nature we need to control and not allow it to go out.

The Scripture give us the rights to resist evil. James the half brother of Jesus said the following: ***“6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.” (James 5:6 KJV)*** With such James gives the right for the righteous to resist in the right way. **The righteous man can resist the evil one so lawfully so he can defend himself, and endeavor to secure himself from injuries; therefore we may use civil authorities to protect ourselves, but not to use such for a private revenge.** One time I remember while we are attacked my wife asked me will you call a police for such? I answered her the following: ***‘That before God I have the right to call police if our physical life is threatened, but as long as our lives are not threatened I cannot do that.’***

“but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also”: * What is understood here is not to seek revenge or retaliation. A slap on the face is not painful but it is humiliating, and what cause us to answer back and beat with our hands is not the pain of the slap but the insult and the humiliation that we receive through that. Such thing would be the drive for us to fight back and to revenge. * But Christ Here is teaching us other thing. Being insulted and humiliated for the sake of Christ should not allow our pride to be ignited to fight back, but for Christ’s sake, the more we need to be humble by not retaliating and accepting insults as something part of our calling and what Christ wants us to endure as we are passing through the narrow way. Especially for the Jewish if someone slap someone on his face he might be charged with a penalty of money, and so such might be used to make money. Therefore Jesus did not want His disciples and we among them to get involved with such. Such endurance will promote Christ and His teaching to a further limit. Christ also He will be the one to revenge for us the harm that we had received.

Pray now surrendering and renouncing your pride so that you can bear the insult that you received for your stand for Christ and will endure not to retaliate or do evil against God and against His will in total avoidance for revenge and retaliation.

Let us pray _____ .

Jesus wants us to resist evil doers but we should not do the same evil that they are doing to us. If they will hurt us or harm us we need to work out to protect ourselves, we need to work out not to compromise with them and the evil that they did. We need to defend the right doctrine of the Word of God, and we need to restrain the thoughts of our mind from revenge or anger or planning to repay evil for the evil that we had received from them; this is the challenge that Christ wants us to achieve and maintain in our walk, life and ministry unto Him.

“40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.” (Matthew 5:40 KJV) Evil doers certain times they are using the civil authorities in order to make a case against you to trouble you. Here we can understand that when we stand firm with Christ and resist evil, the evil doers may use the civil Law to attack us. Here Christ, recommend that when we need to stand firm to fight against corruption and against sin up to the point of forcing us by the injustice of men, to pay things to them which are not due for them. ***What I understood here, is that you don't go along their pressures and compromise with them; persevere in that up to the point that if they will be going to use unjustly the civil forces to destroy you, then with that let them take what they want from you, for in such situation you are no more accountable before God.*** I had passed through that and I surrendered when those who opposed the truth used the civil law to achieve their sinful stand against me and against the church.

“41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.” (Matthew 5:41 KJV) Here the Lord Jesus was speaking about the soldiers and those who were in the government of the Romans, at that time, who had the power from the government to ask the people to serve them, for example, to carry their things or bags for one mile without paying them what is due for them, or asking them to do other services free and taking advantage of them. That is injustice and abuse, inconvenience and disturbance when it take place, but here Christ recommended for his hearers not to fight and quarrel with such a person that obliges them to go with him a mile, but to ***“go with him twain”***: His meaning was not to dispute in such a matter A similar of such we can read in Luke, ***“29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.” (Luke 6:29 KJV)*** ***We also are called to do that in order to avoid fight and quarrels with the government so peace will be preserved so the Gospel can be preached and progress. To resist such injustice and abuse from the government and personnel in the government may bring more strife and troubles; peace will be lost and damages will be more. So Jesus recommended us to bear such matter trusting Him that He will compensate us all those damages that had been inflicted on us from such evil people.***

Let us go now through the Scriptures to strengthen our faith and to take an example of them in what we receive today from Christ's Word. Let us first see the suffering of our Lord and His perseverance in order to confirm the message that He proclaimed:

“67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, 68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?” (Matthew 26:67-68 KJV)

“30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.” (Matthew 27:30 KJV) He received spitting and a beat by hands and reed on the head

“And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.” (Mark 15:19 KJV)

“63 And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him. 64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?” (Luke 22:63-64 KJV) Here Jesus received mocking.

“34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” (Luke 23:34 KJV) They crucified Him but He forgave them, and they took His clothes and divided among them. Christ left us an example that we ought to follow in our lives as Apostle Peter instruct us to do the same: ***“21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:21-25 KJV)***

Let us read the example of Stephen, what he did when they were stoning Him, ***“54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:54-60 KJV)*** He kneeled down in submission to God the Father, that he needed to pass through that, and prayed crying with a loud voice, ***“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”*** Why he prayed this prayer? Because they will not be saved if this sin of what they did to him is laid on them. ***In the same way we are called to pray for those who harmed us for the cause of Christ, so time will come, they will repent and give their life to Christ and start to serve Him.*** One of the fruit of the prayer of Stephen is the salvation of Apostle Paul. We in the same way need to forgive those who harm us for the cause of Christ.

Let us bow down now and forgive those who harmed us: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge, in Jesus name, Amen.

Let us read the example of Paul and how much he suffered from the Jewish and others while he was serving the Lord as we read here, ***“23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.” (2 Corinthians 11:23-27 KJV)***

With such understanding of today's message, let us meditate more on the Word of God, ***“18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:18-21 KJV)***

My dear and beloved: Let us come to the Lord in repentance, asking Him forgiveness for all the revenge and the retaliation that we did to those who did insult us or injure us. Let us renounce anger, grudges and the pride inside us that is working through our flesh to hurt others for the hurt that we received from them. Let us renounce such sins, knowing that such thoughts and attitude will hinder the Gospel from being preached and will hinder us from bearing fruit for Christ. Let us forgive and ask God to fill us with love and revive us to go and bring His Gospel to others who are in need for Christ and are waiting for His salvation to reach them. Let us move forward to evangelize and make disciples reaching new people and the new areas with the love of Christ and the Word of God.

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 in this that explain to me your will in how to deal with those who hates me and ill treats me.

Confess and renounce your sins; your pride, anger, unforgiveness and your unwillingness to be humiliated, renounce grudges and the sin of revenge and retaliation. Lord forgive me the following sins _____. Lord I humble myself before you and I accept to do what I learned today from your Word. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, peace, joy, gentleness and kindness, patience, perseverance, long-suffering and self-control.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who responded to your Word and comply to do and live according to your will. Lord protect them from all the work of the devil and shield them with your grace and mercy and provide all their needs.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us always to live the style of life that you wants us to live, to be a good example to others, so they will see you in our lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize and made new disciples and train more workers 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.

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