

## Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 26

**“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God:” (Matthew 5:8 KJV)**

The pure in heart are happy; holiness and happiness are fully matched and put together. No happiness without purity, and true happiness is when it is accompanied by purity and not by sin. Living in sin will take the joy of God from our hearts.

Those who are pure in heart are happy. When we purify our hearts we will be happy and glad. When we will purify our hearts we will be going to meet God.

Let us read the following real story of King David and the Israelites that will teach us the value of purifying and cleaning our hearts from all sins.

**“1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah. 2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people. 3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing? 4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel. 5 And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer: 6 Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon, 7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba. 8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. 9 And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. 10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. 11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. 13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me. 14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. 15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. 16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of**

**Araunah the Jebusite. 17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house. 18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite. 19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. 20 And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. 21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. 22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. 23 All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee. 24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.” (2 Samuel 24:1-25 KJV)**

**“1 And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.” (2 Samuel 24:1 KJV)** It does not mention here why the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, but sure for certain sins that the Israelites sinned and did not repent of them. God moved King David against them to go and say to number Israel and Judah. Now if God would push David to do that, then what is the sin of David? David sinned because God who had moved David to do that, He also showed him later on that it is not correct, but even with that David did not stop from numbering the men.

**“2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people.” (2 Samuel 24:2 KJV)** Here David instructed Joab to go and do that and he did not say that God had told me to do that, but he said, **“That I may know the number of the people.”** So David took that in a personal way as if it was his own decision, and that is why God disciplined him as we will see later on. God with what David did, He also disciplined the whole Israelites for their sins.

**“3 And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing?” (2 Samuel 24:3 KJV)** Here Joab confronted David, that what he is asking them to do is not correct to make him realize his wrong doing. But King David went ahead with his pride and arrogance and with his wrong motive. God allowed that to happen because He is a just God and would not punish anyone unjustly. God is a just God and He will punish us justly according to our wrong doing.

**“4 Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king,**

*to number the people of Israel.” (2 Samuel 24:4 KJV) So now clearly David was shown that what he is asking them to do is not Godly and would not be blessed by the Lord. True that God had moved David to number the men, but his personal motive of numbering the men was a sin. As well as the refusal of his men exposed it, but he refused to change his mind about it.*

Therefore the men left David and continued their journey to do the task, “5 And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer: 6 Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon, 7 And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba. 8 So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.” (2 Samuel 24:5-8 KJV) So they went around the whole land to do that task and it took them several months to achieve that. They came and they gave the sum to David, “9 And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.” (2 Samuel 24:9 KJV)

“10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. 11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. 13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.” (2 Samuel 24:10-13 KJV) David after he did that wrong doing, he was convicted of his wrong doing and he confessed his sin to God, “I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.” (2 Samuel 24:10 KJV) David's heart smote him for he was condemned of what he did wrong, “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.” (1 John 3:20 KJV) This what God would expect today to hear from His church and His people: that we have sinned greatly in what we have done, and we besiege God to take away our sins. We need to do such so that His blessings will go back again to us; we who are His people.

The question is that how David got convicted of what he had done is sin? You might say by the Holy Spirit. But if you will read the next verse you will find out how David was convicted, “11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.” (2 Samuel 24:11-12 KJV) So it means here that David was convicted by the Word of God that was sent to Him by the prophet Gad. For this reason we need to continue to read daily the Word of God that will convict of all our sins, so that we will be led into repentance.

For the same reason, we need also to continue to preach and teach God's Word to others that they may get convicted for their sins and repent of their wrongdoings.

“13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.” (2 Samuel 24:13 KJV) David when he heard that he was convicted of his sin. He was requested to choose and to give a clear answer of his choice of what he needs to pass of punishment as a consequence of his sin.

“14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.” (2 Samuel 24:14 KJV) David decided to fall into the hand of God. He said, let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.” He decided to fall into the hand of God and not into the hand of man because God is merciful and will be merciful toward Him. When he decided to fall into the hand of God he chooses to have three days of pestilence, “15 So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.” (2 Samuel 24:15 KJV) So the pestilence here came from God who allow it. No man can send pestilence. Famine might be created by men, war can be created by man but pestilence only can come from God. Upon the repentance of David God allowed pestilence to come for three days only, and for three days seventy thousand people died because of the pestilence.

Now COVID 19 ravaging the whole world but there is no end of it. Why? There is no real repentance. There is much preaching and teaching but there is no repentance. David when he was rebuked by the prophet Gad and when His heart smote him, he repented, and confessed, “I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.” (2 Samuel 24:10 KJV) Now a day the church leaders and the people of God with the coming of COVID 19 are still boasting with their achievement and their wrong doing, that is why the pestilence of COVID 19 is still going on.

Sure that the Lord when He sent the pestilence not only David repented, but the Israelites as well as repented of their sins, “16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.” (2 Samuel 24:16 KJV) God had mercy on his people after seeing the humble attitude of King David. Our repentance and our humble attitude toward God will grant us and the npeople around us the mercy of God.

“17 And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.” (2 Samuel 24:17 KJV) This is what God is expecting to hear from us today, from the church leaders and from His people, that they will accept and acknowledge their own sins and their wrong doings.

David did not fight with the prophet Gad who confronted him, he did not fight with his leaders, he did not accuse his people, but he put the whole blame on himself. God wants us to behave in the same way. We should not put the blame on other people but on ourselves who did the wrongdoing. David after he purified his heart he was able to see the angel of God in his eyes. In the same way we will be able to see God in our lives when we confess our sins and acknowledge them and by keeping our hearts pure before God.

Therefore, with such attitude God came with mercy to David. When David's heart was pure before God and repented before God, the Lord came to him with pardon and mercy, **"18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite."** (2 Samuel 24:18 KJV) David was asked to go and build an altar to the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, and in the same place the temple of God was built by Solomon later on. God will come back to us when we make our heart pure before God and acknowledge our sins and our shortcoming before him. God will restore us back to Him and back to the ministry and will ask us to go and take part in building up His church.

David obeyed God and went to the place that God wanted him to go, **"19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. 20 And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground."** (2 Samuel 24:19-20 KJV) Araunah was non Jewish but he was converted person who delighted in God and delighted to do His will. **"21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people."** (2 Samuel 24:21 KJV) Araunah inquired from David who told him the whole story and his reason to buy his threshing floor so he can build an altar to the Lord so the plague will be stopped. David did not hide anything from his sin to Araunah. In the same way we need to repent from our sins so that we will not be ashamed to tell others about what we had done wrong.

**"22 And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. 23 All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee."** (2 Samuel 24:22-23 KJV) Araunah agreed with David and gave to him what he asked him, for he delighted to take part in the good things that God requested David to do. Araunah went out of the way and offered freely the land, the oxen and the instruments to be used by David as burnt offering. But David refused to take it freely. He insisted to pay because he does not want to offer something to God that cost him nothing, **"24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel."** (2 Samuel 24:24-25 KJV) David paid fifty shekels of silver for everything, and he built an altar unto the Lord and offered burnt offerings surrendering his life fully to God and offered peace offerings to bring the peace of God in his life. There is sin offering in the Old Testament, those who sin they need to offer something that will cost

them something. I am not saying that we can buy our salvation and replace our repentance with offerings and giving material things, but we need to pay the cost of what we did wrong and bear the consequences of our sins.

As well as we need to understand that we need to offer from our hearts what is due to God, from tithes, offerings, firstfruits and vows. We need to have pure heart and express that in our willingness to offer to God our hearts, our lives and our material things whenever we are called to do such. David was pure in heart when he repented, and he did not take advantage of Araunah who offered him free things. He knew that he needed to pay dearly to God what He asked him to do. In the same way we need to take our full responsibility before God, and be willing to offer the proper sacrifice that will express our true repentance toward God.

**My dear and beloved:**

Holiness and happiness are fully matched and put together. No happiness without purity, and true happiness is when it is accompanied by purity and not by sin. Living in sin will take the joy of God from our hearts.

When you purify your heart you will be happy and glad. When you will purify your heart you will be going to meet God.

Sins and wrong doings that you are not repented off will ignite God's anger against you, and you will find yourself one day in a trouble to discipline you for your sins. Plagues and sicknesses God will allow to come on you if you let sin remain and rule in your life. Therefore confess your sins now to God and renounce them so that you will be in pure heart before Him.

Now a day the church leaders and the people of God with the coming of COVID 19 are still boasting with their achievement and their wrong doing, that is why the pestilence of COVID 19 is still going on.

Your repentance and your humble attitude toward God will grant you and the people around you the mercy of God.

You will be able to see God in your life when you confess your sins and acknowledge them and keeping your hearts pure before Him.

Humble down when people approach you and explain to you to refrain and retreat from the wrong doing that you are committing against God.

Repent of your personal motive behind of what you are doing, and put in your mind that God can see the non purity in your heart.

I pray that this message will convict your heart of all your wrong doings and decide to repent, confess your sins, renounce them, and purify your heart before God and men. You need to do such so that His blessings will go back again to you and back to His people, and His church.



Continue to read daily the Word of God and listen to the preaching messages that are sent to you; these will convict you of all your sins, so that you will be led into repentance.

As you repent, choose to fall into the hand of God for He is merciful on you, and as you repent He will see your pure heart and He will work to restore you and bring back to His presence and to His service.

To my repented brethren, I encourage you to continue to preach and teach God's Word to others that they may get convicted for their sins and repent of their wrongdoings and purify themselves before God.

Be willing to pay the cost of what you did wrong and bear the consequences of your sins.

As well as you need to understand that you need to offer from your heart what is due to God, from tithes, offerings, firstfruits and vows. You need also to have pure heart and express that in your willingness to offer to God your heart, your life and your material things whenever you are called to do such. David was pure in heart when he repented, and he did not take advantage of Araunah who offered free things. He knew that he need to pay dearly to God what He asked him to do.

Don't take advantage of people. You need to take your full responsibility before God, and be willing to offer the proper sacrifice that will express your true repentance toward God, and do as David did.

#### **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 thank you for your word that open my mind clearly and made me understand your will and the way to serve you.

Let us confess to God our sins and wrongdoings. Let us ask God forgiveness and mercy for our sins that we commit against Him.

Lord forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Ask God forgiveness for your wrong motive, malice, evil thoughts, pride, boasting, arrogance, anger, putting the blames on others, taking advantage of people, etc.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in the message. Lord I decide to fall into your merciful hand. Lord, helps me, forgive my sins, have mercy on me, instruct me of what I need to do, and restore me back to you and to serve you.

Lord I am willing to go to do what you requested me to do, and I am willing to spend in order to please you and go along your will.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to live and apply the principles that we learn from your Word in this message, Lord protect

them, and provide for them all their needs. Lord comfort them and assure them that you had forgiven them, and that you are with them and leading them in their lives. Lord fills them once again with the Holy Spirit and makes their lives' testimony attractive to others so that people will believe in you and start to follow you and live according to your Word and your righteousness. Lord use them to evangelize and to make new disciples of yours and to build up your church, the body of Christ.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will 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. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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