Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 29

"9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God:" (Matthew 5:9 KJV)

We will study now *Matthew 10* and we will discover more clearly what Jesus meant with the peacemakers and how He wants us to live our lives for Him:

"I And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." (Matthew 10:1 KJV) Jesus called His apostles unto Him and He commissioned His apostles, the twelve disciples to go and be the peacemakers. He commissioned them to go and drive out unclean spirits. He gave them authorities against the power of darkness, and gave them the gifts to heal all kinds of sicknesses. Sicknesses are the symptoms of diseases. Diseases are clear defined entities that had definitions. Sicknesses are the symptoms of the diseases. For example weakness, headache, pain, paralysis, epilepsy are sicknesses, but brain tumour, gastric ulcer, tonsillitis are diseases. In the same way when God is calling us, He is equipping us, and training us well so we go and do the work of Him in an efficient way.

"2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother. 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him." (Matthew 10:2-4 KJV) Here are the names of the twelve that Jesus sent. Peter was the first and their leader, that even when we follow the book of Acts he remained in the lead of the church. Then the rest mentioned. When we are sent by the Lord, we are called and sent by names. Jesus today is calling us and sending each and every one of us to be a peacemaker. Matthew the publican was a tax collector but God changed his life of sin and he left his previous sinful way of life and his extortion and started to follow Christ. When God called us we were the same, living a life of sin, but we were justified, sanctified and became the children of God, and are called to bring the peace of God to others. When we do that we will be blessed and happy and having the joy in our hearts and in our lives; we will be children of God by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and by being peacemakers.

"5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 10:5-6 KJV) Now here the Lord is not against it to go to the Samaritans, or to the Gentiles, but they must abide with the strategy of Jesus to start from home. From Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, then to the end of the world, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8 KJV) So we need to start from home. We bring the gospel of Jesus to our families and to our homes, and relatives, that is Jerusalem, then to other cities in the same country that we are living, that

is Samaria, then to the rest of the countries and to the whole world and that is to the uttermost part of the earth. With the development of the media that becomes so easy to do. Therefore, we need to pass through these stages, one by one, and we need to do them in such a programmed way that God wants us to do. It is not correct that the apostles will go to the Samaritans and the Gentiles and will leave the Jewish. First, they must do their parts to the Jewish, and then later on they need to go to the others. Our families, our parents, our spouses, our children, we need to reach out first, then later on our relatives and then our neighbours and friends. So there are priorities that we need to reach out.

"7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 10:7 KJV) The Kingdom of God is near and at hand to those who are willing to repent and to receive Christ as Savior and Lord over their lives. We as peacemakers should be aware that Jesus wants us to move to new people and preach to them the gospel. We need to keep our mouths open and speaking the Word of God and declaring the will of God.

"8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8 KJV) The Lord had given to His apostles' lot of spiritual gifts and that to aid them in their mission of peacemakers. God in the same way had given to us lot of spiritual gifts that will aid us in our endeavor to bring the salvation and the peace of God to others. As peacemakers we can bring the peace of God, through the gifts of healing, in laying our hands on the sick people, through cleansing those who are leprous and who have separated from God and from His people by using the Word of God and the instruction of Jesus. We go forward to comfort the people who have troubles, to speak kind words to those who are in trials and need encouraging word. We can be peacemakers through raising the dead, and driving out demons. Jesus had bestowed on His church lot of gifts and blessings to aid us in our mission to bring the peace of God to others and to be the peacemakers for the world. We are called to share all these gifts freely as we had received them freely. What we got from God we received freely, therefore we need to share them with others. We need to be peacemakers by sharing with others of what we receive; the message of salvation and the spiritual gifts of healing, and driving out demons, cleansing the leprous and raising people from the death. Why we need to drive out demons? Because they are the first who oppose the movement of the church and will use people to oppose the progress of God's church.

"9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat." (Matthew 10:9-10 KJV) Here the Lord instructed the disciples not to be worried to have and prepare gold, silver, or brass in their purses (instead of our currencies today), not scrip (a bag to carry their things) and food for the journey, coats, shoes or staves to help them to walk for their journey and to use them to fight, not because they don't need all such, not because that they should not be worried to prepare them, but they will be a burden for them to carry and to move quickly, and because they will suppose to receive such things from those whom they are reaching out and whom they are discipling. As well as they will not be needing to take these with them because their journey will not be long, and such thing will hinder their journey to go fast. But these also need to be taken and received because if they will not receive these from those whom they are reaching out, their journey and ministry will be more difficult

without such. So here the peacemakers they should be ready to ask those whom they are evangelizing and teaching to give to them what they need of material things, as well as their tithes, their offerings, their first fruits, their vows and whatever they had dedicated to the Lord, for the workman is worthy of his meat." (Matthew 10:10 KJV) As we move to bring the good news to others we are worthy to receive support of those whom we are reaching out.

"11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence." (Matthew 10:11 KJV) The Word 'worthy', here the Greek word of it is 'Axios', and the meaning of it is weighing, having weight, having the weight of another thing of value, and worth much. Now let us observe, what the Lord said, "for the workman is worthy of his meat." (Matthew 10:10 KJV) Therefore it might be thought that Jesus said that we need to reach out worthy people in order to receive worthy things. Not only that, but for the better fruit and stability of the ministry we need to work with worthy people who value the good things and especially the things of God.

The others Scriptures that speak about the Word 'worthy', we can read in other places in the Scriptures so we can grasp how God wants us to be peacemakers.

- 1. "4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. 5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. 6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. 7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. 8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you." (Luke 10:4-8 KJV)
- 2. "For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward." (1 Timothy 5:18 KJV) As we go and preach the Word and serve the people, then we, the labourers, are worthy of receiving rewards from those whom we serve.
- 3. "44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed, 49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. 50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 13:44-52 KJV) Paul and Barnabas said to the Jewish who opposed them face to face, you are unworthy of the Word of God and

the eternal life as we can here: "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." (Acts 13:46 KJV) and they announced to them that they will go to the Gentiles and that had caused great persecution against them.

4. "32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." (Hebrews 11:32-38 KJV) Those heroes with all what they suffered and the abused they received, means the world was unworthy of them; the world did not deserve them to be given to it. In the same way, when we do all what we can to help the people and do the best for them as God ordained, and they miss treat us and reward us bad for good, then they are unworthy of us.

Therefore the Lord asked His apostles and is asking us today to look for worthy men to receive worthy things. I am not saying here that we should look on people who will give us materials things, although the Lord recommends that because it is needed and we need that, but we need to look on people who value the things of God and value what we are bringing to them of the message of God, the gifts of God and the blessings of God into their lives. They might be very poor people but they are willing even to give, out of their poverty all what they can give for God and to support the work of God in supporting us.

So we need to look for worthy people in the city or in the place that God is sending us in order to reach them and to reach out to them.

So here Jesus explain to us clearly how we can be peacemakers, not to be scapegoat, but to discern from the beginning with whom we are dealing and if they are willing to humble down and accept God's Word and God's ways.

A person who is only willing to receive but not willing to give, then he is unworthy person; we need to go away from such people. "11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence." (Matthew 10:11 KJV)

As we receive from that house we need to stay there and not to keep moving reaching other places in order to receive more material things. We don't serve God to support our own bellies. Therefore once we found a worth person we need to abide in His house. The point that Jesus want to stress here is that we need to be content of what we

are receiving. "7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. 8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you." (Luke 10:7-8 KJV)

"12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you." (Matthew 10:12-13 KJV) So here the salutes are the terms and the conditions of the Word of God. If those in the house are worthy they will take the Word of God seriously and apply them.

Therefore we need not to compromise (as what is going now a day the message is diluted to please people) but we ought to tell them straight the Word of God; the whole truth we need to tell to them, then we will observe if they will respond to us or they will react and refuse it. So if they are worthy they will accept and apply. But if they will not take it then we take back the Word of God and the peace of God, and the blessings and the happiness of God that we offered to them.

Since they don't want receive us and they don't want to receive the Word of God, then we need to depart from that house or city with the shaking of the dust from our feet; with their refusal, then they are inviting the wrath of God to come upon them.

let your peace return to you, or "it shall return to you"; the happiness wished shall not come upon them, and the prayers and good wishes of the apostles shall be void, and of none effect, with respect to that family and that house, but it shall be made good to the apostles; and they should be directed to another house, where they should find persons more generous and free to entertain them./

"14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." (Matthew 10:14 KJV) Shaking the dust of your feet, is to clear your responsibility before God; their blood will be on their own head. Shaking the dust from their feet, first, is that they were come to them and had reached them, now since they did not respond, they are shaking the dust off their feet, second, it means that they have nothing to do with them for no more things to be done to them, third, and that the dust that is shaking is a witness for that, that they had rejected the message of God to them, and that will be an aggravation of their condemnation. Shaking the dust of their feet was such their wickedness, fourth, that even the dust of their country was infected thereby, and therefore they shook it off, as though it defiled them, as the dust of an Heathen country was thought by the Jews to do, it means they are unclean and even their dust is unclean, dirty, harmful and needed to be shaken off.

"15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city." (Matthew 10:15 KJV) Here the Lord announcing to his apostles the judgment of God how it will be hard on those who refuse to receive them and refuse the Word of God that they are giving to them. The inhabitants of the land of Sodom and Gomorrha are mentioned, because, as they were very notorious and abominable sinners, so their punishment was well known, exemplary and awful, and the Israelites used that punishment to indicate the

punishment of God that He will send for sinners as such. When Jesus said about the unworthy: "15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city." (Matthew 10:15 KJV) Meaning, that they will receive double punishment now and in the other world, the vengeance of eternal fire, as Jude says, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." (Jude 1:7 KJV) The punishment of Sodom and Gomorrha will be milder, and more tolerable, than that of the unworthy inhabitants of such a city, that rejects the Gospel of Jesus and the grace of God that the peacemakers are bringing to them. The sins of those that are heard the Gospel and rejects it, are greater than those of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrha; the inhabitant of Sodom and Gomorrha at the day of judgment they will be more mildly punished than the wicked Jews and the rest of unworthy people, who rejected Christ, and his Gospel, and despised his apostles, ministers, and those who are doing the apostle ministry.

My dear and beloved:

As peacemakers, when God is calling us, He is equipping us, and training us well so we go and do the work of Him in an efficient way.

As peacemakers, when God called us we are called to bring the peace of God to others. When we do that we will be blessed and happy and having the joy in our hearts and in our lives.

As peacemakers, we need to start from home. We need to bring the gospel of Jesus to our families and to our homes, and relatives, that is Jerusalem, then to our neighbours and friends in the same city that we are living that is Judaea, then to other cities in the same country that we are living, that is Samaria, then to the rest of the countries and to the whole world and that is to the uttermost part of the earth.

As peacemakers, we should be aware that Jesus wants us to move to new people and preach to them the gospel. We need to keep our mouths open and speaking the Word of God and declaring the whole will of God.

As peacemakers we can bring the peace of God, through the gifts of healing, in laying our hands on the sick people, through cleansing those who are leprous and who have separated from God and from His people by using the Word of God and the instruction of Jesus.

As peacemakers, we are called to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit freely as we had received them freely. What we got from God we received freely, therefore we need to share them with others.

As peacemakers, we should be ready to ask those whom we are evangelizing and teaching to give material things, as well as their tithes, their offerings, their first fruits, their vows and whatever they had dedicated to the Lord, "for the workman is worthy of his meat." (Matthew 10:10 KJV) As peacemakers, as we move to bring the good news to others we are worthy to receive support of those whom we are reaching out.

As peacemakers, we need to understand that Jesus said that we need to reach out worthy people not only to receive worthy things, but as well as for the better fruit and stability of the ministry we need to work with worthy people who value the good things of God.

As peacemakers, we need to understand that the Lord is asking us today to look for worthy men to receive worthy things.

As peacemakers, when we do all what we can to help the people and do the best for them as God ordained, and they miss treat us and reward us bad for good, then they are unworthy of us.

As peacemakers, we need to look for people who value the things of God and value what we are bringing to them of the message of God, the gifts of God and the blessings of God into their lives. They might be very poor people but they are willing even to give, out of their poverty all what they can give for God and to support the work of God in supporting us.

So we need to look for worthy people in the city or in the place that God is sending us in order to reach them and to reach out to them.

As peacemakers, Jesus explained to us clearly how we can be peacemakers, not to be scapegoat, but to discern from the beginning with whom we are dealing and if they are willing to humble down and accept God's Word and God's ways.

As peacemakers, a person who is only willing to receive but not willing to give, then he/she is unworthy person; we need to go away from such people.

As peacemakers, as we receive from a certain house we need to stay there and not to keep moving reaching other places in order to receive more material things. We don't serve God to support our own bellies. Therefore once we found a worthy person we need to abide in His house. The point that Jesus want to stress here is that we need to be content of what we are receiving.

As peacemakers, our salutes are the terms and the conditions of the Word of God. If those in the house are worthy they will take the Word of God seriously and apply them.

As peacemakers, we need not to compromise (as what is going now a day the message is diluted to please people) but we ought to tell them straight the Word of God; the whole truth we need to tell to them, then we will observe if they will respond to us or they will react and refuse it. So if they are worthy they will accept and apply. But if they will not take it then we take back the Word of God and the peace of God, and the blessings and the happiness of God that we offered to them.

As peacemakers, since they don't want receive us and they don't want to receive the Word of God, then we need to depart from that house or city with the shaking of the dust from our feet; with their refusal, then they are inviting the wrath of God to come upon them.

<u>As</u> peacemakers, **let your peace return to you**; the happiness you wished to the unworthy person or people shall not come upon them, and the prayers and good wishes with respect to that family and that house, shall be return to you and you will be the one to be benefited, and it shall be directed to another house, where you should find persons more generous and worthy to entertain you./

As peacemakers, shake the dust of your feet from the unworthy people and houses to clear your responsibility before God; that their blood will be on their own head.

As peacemakers, undertand that the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrha will be milder, and more tolerable, than that of the unworthy inhabitants of such a house and city, that rejects the Gospel of the grace of God that God sent them through your life.

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 live my life for you and 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 and against other people and against the church and the ministries of God.

Repent if you have acted in an unworthy manner toward God's servant whom He sent you to give you the Word of God.

Lord forgive me the following sins	
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Ask God forgiveness for your pride, arrogance, greed, stinginess, non willingness to give, and ask God forgiveness for your fighting, and making troubles to God's servants.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in the message to be a real peacemakers. Lord I commit my priority to evangelize reaching first my household, then my neighbour, friends and the people around me in the same city I live, then the other cities in the country I am residing, then to the rest of the world.

Lord I commit myself to look and to reach out for worthy people. Lord give me discernment and direct me with your Word and the Holy Spirit how to reach them.

Lord give me discernment, humility, and more understanding to your Word and to your ways. Lord protects me and direct me how to meet my needs. Lord I am willing to implement what I receive from instruction in this message to shake the dust of my feet as a sign for those families and houses that are unworthy of you and your Word.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to live as peacemakers and to 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 are with them and leading them in their lives. Lord give them joy, happiness and peace. Lord visit them and reveal yourself more to them. Lord fills them once again with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to evangelize, to heal the sick, to drive our demons, to clean the leprous, and even to raise up the dead. Lord use them to be peacemakers, to evangelize and to make new disciples of yours and to bring peace and 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.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf The Church Overseer Church of God United Arab Emirates

Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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