

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 34***

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

Let us continue to study the Scriptures to discover more clearly what Jesus meant with the peacemakers and how He wants us to live our lives for Him:

***“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14 KJV)*** In this Scripture God is instructing us to be peacemakers and to follow peace with all men and to observe holiness, otherwise without living a holy life we will not be able to see the Lord or meet the Lord when He comes.

But to understand what kind of peace that God wants us to follow with all men and to apply in our lives and ministry then we need to read the whole passage, ***“11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. 14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: 15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. 16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” (Hebrews 12:11-17 KJV)***

In ***Hebrews 12*** God is speaking about the importance of discipline and its value to impart righteousness and peace to those who were trained by it.

***“11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.” (Hebrews 12:11 KJV)*** *So peace will not come unless God will discipline us and deal with our sins, and for this reason we need to persevere in it and bear the discipline of God when He apply it on us to humble us, correct us and restrain us from our wrong doing.*

*The discipline need to be painful so that peace and righteousness, and learning to do what is right to be imparted. We need to exercise that in our midst. Willingly we need to discipline ourselves and be willing to suffer in disciplining others; our children and our disciples.* ***“12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.” (Hebrews 12:12-13 KJV)*** *When God is disciplining us we need to bear it, and we as church should understand when we do wrong God will not leave us without a proper discipline, therefore we need to prepare our hands and feet and strengthening them for the session of chastening that God is applying in our lives. We need to bear it and not to rebel or fight back against God.* Most of the time people will fight back when God will discipline them or when God will put them in a

corner. So when He says ***“14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14 KJV)*** So *we need to understand that God is holy and He does not allow sin to continue in His church and in our lives.*

*Sin brings agitation and disturbances.* Children who are left without discipline they are agitated and in chaos. But after the session of spanking the children are at peace and in peace. *As well as God wants us to work with Him to deal with sin by allowing and agreeing about the discipline of God that He apply on us or on others such as our children, new disciples, church members, workers, etc.*

*When God is bringing chastening into my son and into my disciples and I work to protect my son or my disciples from the chastening of God then I am not a peacemaker but troublemaker.*

*Those who refuse to discipline their children and chastise them for their sins they are trouble makers in the church.* We should understand that to keep peace and work as peacemakers we need to keep holiness. Holiness is to live and fight against sin, and the fighting against sin will bring the peace of God in the midst of us. Fighting against sin needs us to be diligent in doing that and finding out those who has not yet receive the grace of God and those who did not receive the opportunity to know about God, about Jesus Christ our Lord and about the Word of God and what dictates on us to do. ***“15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God.” (Hebrews 12:15 KJV)*** Not only that, but we need to find out those who are in sin, ***“Lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” (Hebrews 12:15 KJV)*** Here also we need to find out those who are living in sin and their lives in sin would bring destruction unto others, especially the sin of fornication, the sin of unlawful marriages, and those who live their lives to satisfy their flesh, not to please God, and live a style of life that will deny their inheritance in Heaven like Esau, who lost the blessings of God when he sold his birth right just for the sake of little food: ***“16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. 17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” (Hebrews 12:16-17 KJV)*** Esau refused the instructions of his parents when he went and married from among the Canaanites. *We need to scrutinize and follow up such kind of people and the life that they live in to find if they had reached to the point of repentance so they can be restored, otherwise if no repentance then they need to continue to be under the discipline of God and the wrath of God, even to be kept outside the church, till they repent and that will be the way that God wants us to bring peace and be the peacemakers that God wants us to be.*

Apostle Paul spoke about the same matter to the Corinthians and the importance of dealing with the sins of those who did not repent of their sins, ***“1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. 2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare: 3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you. 4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak***

*in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you. 5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. 7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. 8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. 9 For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong; and this also we wish, even your perfection. 10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction. 11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:1-11 KJV)* He told them to live in peace. Let us see what living in peace or to be peacemaker what require from us.

*“1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” (2 Corinthians 13:1 KJV)* Paul was moving and travelling to follow up the situation of the church in order to deal with the serious issues that not yet being settled. That was his third visit to that church and he needed to go to deal with those important issues. *We too need to deal with the hot issues that are in the church today and in the life of the individual of the church in order to achieve the peace of God in our midst. Everything needs to be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses to be sure of what was taken place.*

*“2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare.” (2 Corinthians 13:2 KJV)* Paul was giving those who sin a chance to repent. He was sending letter to them to teach them about sin, its effects and how to be cleansed from it. Now he is warning them with a final notice that he will not spare those who sinned and not repented and who are not yet aware what the dreadful effect of their sins. *We need to do the same, when there is sin we need to deal with it properly.*

We as watchmen and watchwomen we need to do our part by warning the people so that their blood will not be falling on our head: *“16 And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. 18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. 20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.” (Ezekiel 3:16-20 KJV)*

*“16 And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.” (Ezekiel 3:16-17 KJV)* *We need to inform the people and warn them of whatever we receive from the Lord.* Ezekiel was ministering to the people from week to week. So whatever he is receiving from the Lord he needed to impart it to the people week after week.

*“18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.” (Ezekiel 3:18-19 KJV)* We need to do that in a personal level. *We need to go to those who are in sin and speak to them in a personal level and explain to them what they need to do. We need to do that urgently to avoid the fall of the wrath of God upon them, so we will be free from their blood.*

*Those who are living in immorality, live-in relationship, divorce and remarriage, having extramarital affair, we need to do our part to give them the final warning and finally to expel them publicly from the congregation if they will not respond.*

*“20 Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.” (Ezekiel 3:20 KJV)* The righteous when they start to do wrong God will not remember all the good things that they were doing, therefore we need to warn them of their sins, so their blood will not be falling upon our heads. *We are the watchmen and watchwomen that God appointed over the congregation and we need to obey God and His instructions. Those who are not willing to abide and give up their immoralities we are going to expel them and take them out from our midst.*

*“3 Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.” (2 Corinthians 13:3 KJV)* The Corinthians were requesting from Paul a prove that Christ was speaking through him. What he was saying here, to deal with sins and serious issues in the life of the church is the proof that Christ was speaking through him. And in this matter Christ would prove Himself strong in dealing with their sins. *People want to see miracles in the life of the church to believe that God is in the church, but dealing with sins and cleansing His church from it is the miracle of God in the life of His church,* and that what he means by, *“but is mighty in you.”*

*“4 For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.” (2 Corinthians 13:4 KJV)* The crucifixion of Christ would show to the world His weakness, but His resurrection shows the power of God. Paul was telling them that we are also the same, *“For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.” (2 Corinthians 13:4 KJV)* Paul might be looking weak in

external appearance to the Corinthians but he proved strong and was living with the power of God when he was dealing with their sins. The power of the minister of God is not in his body build but in his willingness not to compromise and in his willingness to deal with sin. We too will prove to be strong in Him when we act as peacemakers and successfully and faithfully deal with sinful issues in the life of the church.

***“5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Corinthians 13:5 KJV)*** Paul was challenging them here if they are really in Christ and in the right faith, then they should be willing to deal with the sins among them, and he was reminding them that Christ was in them manifesting His power in exposing sins and enabling Paul and the rest who are faithful among them to deal with, ***“Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2 Corinthians 13:5 KJV)*** He is telling them that Christ is in you, and the proof of that is the church movement to deal with sins. He was telling them also that Christ would expect from you a genuine faith and your agreement to stand with Him in dealing with sin and that how you prove your genuine faith, otherwise you are a reprobates, faked and not genuine people of God.

***“6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.” (2 Corinthians 13:6 KJV)*** Paul was confident that his work in Christ is not in vain, and that the Corinthians would finally stand faithfully with Christ and prove their genuine faith when they will deal with the sin among themselves. We should have faith in God and have trust in Him that all what we are laboring in will bring the fruit and that He will enable us to deal successfully with the sinful issues inside the church and that the Lord will prove that He is in the midst among us in doing miracles in exposing sins and enabling us to deal with them, and in overcoming the hardships that sins may inflict on us and on the life of God’s Church.

***“6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.” (2 Corinthians 13:6 KJV)*** Paul was trusting God that He will reveal to the church that he and his coworkers are not reprobates or faked and his burden was only for the Corinthians to do what is right and stand with God to be cleansed from sins. In the same way, me and my coworkers we trust God that He will vindicate us and prove us to be a genuine people, but our burden now is for you to do what is right and just that please God and worked out peace by purging sin from our midst.

***“7 Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.” (2 Corinthians 13:7 KJV)*** Paul was praying to them and he was informing them about it that they will not do evil by condoning and approving sin, or in tolerating it, but that they will be willing to deal with sin and sinners accordingly. Paul also was telling them, ***“Not that we should appear approved,”*** what he means here is that he was not wishing that God will grant him power to be able to discipline them but that they should do what is honest, as he told them, ***“But that ye should do that which is honest,”*** and he was not mindful of what they will look unto him or consider him, even if they will think about him as non genuine person when he told them, ***“though we be as reprobates,”*** as long as they are honest and willing to do what is right. This statement also teaches us from the life of

Apostle Paul the self denial, and humility, that most of us are not much willing to give up. In the midst of the situation that God is dealing with sin and cleansing His church, it is not important who prove right or who win, but the most important is that Christ to be glorified in our midst in purging out sins from our midst.

***“8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” (2 Corinthians 13:8 KJV)*** Paul is encouraging them and assuring them, that what he thinks about that, that all of them will do all the things for the truth and not against the truth. So here another expression of love and charity and hope when you still think good of those who seem they are opposing the truth, but you are still confident that they will do things to support the truth.

***“9 For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.” (2 Corinthians 13:9 KJV)*** Apostle Paul here again assuring them of his good will and good wishes toward them, for he was telling them, that he does not mind that he and his workers are weak, as long as they are, the Corinthians, strong and moving forward toward perfection in doing the whole will of God to stand firm and well assured in faith and work out things to purge sins from among them.

***“10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.” (2 Corinthians 13:10 KJV)*** Paul here, he is assuring them, that what he promised to deal with their sins and the issues inside the Corinthians church he will deal with it in sharpness using the power that God gave him to edify the church, and in this way he is proclaiming that the discipline and the cleansing of the church from sins is not a destruction process but an important need for the church, even their edification.

***My dear and beloved: “11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11 KJV)*** Paul here in his farewell to them, he was endorsing them the following:

***Be perfect:*** In pertain to faith and the things of faith to do the truth and stand with God against sin.

***Be of good comfort:*** To be assured that dealing with sin and to live in holiness is our duty to bring the peace of God once again in our midst, that will bring comfort, and such deeds was the prove that Christ is present in our midst.

***Be of one mind:*** To be united with Christ and His Word in pertain to the concerns of God to purge His church from sins.

***Live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*** To live in peace as peacemakers and to let the peace of God to flow in our midst is when we are willing to discipline ourselves, to do things for the truth, to be perfected in things pertain to faith and to deal with sin among us, and got united in one mind, the mind of Christ.

***“12 Greet one another with an holy kiss.” (2 Corinthians 13:12 KJV)*** Holy kiss is to love without hypocrisy and to love responsibly before God and to apply His Word in the life of His church.

***“13 All the saints salute you.” (2 Corinthians 13:12 KJV)*** All the saints with Paul not only they sent their greetings, but agreed about what is needed to be done in the life of the church of the Corinthians and even in the life of the church today.

***“14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14 KJV)*** We will enjoy the Grace of our Lord Jesus and the love of God and the communion with the Holy Spirit; all that will come true in our lives and in the midst of our church when we are willing and agree to deal with sin in our midst.

***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 made me understand your will and ways for me to be peacemakers and how to bring your peace in the midst of your church.*

*Let us confess to God our sins and wrongdoings. Lord forgives me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Ask God forgiveness for your compromises, the fear of man, condoning of sins, and non willingness to discipline your children and your disciples.*

*Lord I commit myself to abide with this word of yours that I receive in this message to be a real peacemakers. Lord I commit myself to deal with the sins of my children, my disciples and to deal with those who sin inside your church.*

*Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented and are willing to live as peacemakers in dealing with sins inside your church, 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 work miracles for them and enable them to purge your church from sins. Lord give them joy, comfort, assurance and peace. Lord visits them, lift them up, and uphold them with your grace as they are willing to deal with sin and to do your will.*

*Lord, do miracle in our church, cleanse us from sins and enable us to deal with those who are not yet repented in our midst. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord add to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of 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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