

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 48

The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Pergamos Part 2

“12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; 13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. 14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. 16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. 17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” (Revelation 2:12-17 KJV)

There are workers and pastors who evangelize but they have relationships and affairs. Why this sin of immoralities is important to deal with? Because all sins are outside the body but the sin of sexual immoralities are inside the body, ***“15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” (1 Corinthians 6:15-20 KJV)*** Here the Scriptures explain to us the real danger of the sin of immoralities. The sin of immoralities is the opportunity of taking the body of Christ and make him unite with prostitutes and that will give way for devil to inject demons into the body of Christ, into the Church of God.

So that the church in Pergamos were very good in evangelism, but were bad in allowing immoralities to spread among them, and not careful to eliminate them from their midst. Therefore that church was worldly and was also soaked in sin and immoralities. That is why at the beginning the Lord mentioned to them Antipas, to be good example to them that they should be against all idols and against all kinds of sins and against all the work of Satan, ***“13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.” (Revelation 2:13)*** ***So here we understand, if we evangelize and stand firm on our faith and not deny the name of Jesus, that would not give us the right to allow sin and immoralities to be in our midst.***

“15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.” (Revelation 2:15 KJV) The church in Pergamos had people who hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, that we discussed in the previous church of Ephesus, which basically allowing fornication, adultery and food offered to idols.

Here the Lord in His message to the leader of the church, he is telling him that you have people with you are doing such. So he was not doing so but there were people with him who were practicing such and God wanted him to discipline them and cleanse the church from such a sin. Because the families and those new that they were reaching might be infected and having the same sins. ***The Lord wants you to take a clear stand and actions that you, and your family and the church and the congregation under your care are to be away from fornication, adultery and from what is offered to the idols and demons.***

Celebration and parties will not give glory to God but will give glory to man. Some they say that we do parties because we want to invite people to Christ. Salvation does not depend on parties and food. Salvation and evangelism depend on the work of the Holy Spirit. Some they say that now there are much sin and more people are becoming wicked, yes and that is true, but God is still working with the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is not with us, then the parties, the banquets, and the spending are all against the work of the Holy Spirit. If you want to help poor people, that is correct and you can do it by giving food to those people who are in need. Jesus admonished us to avoid inviting and banqueting except with those who are crippled and are in need, ***“12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. 13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:12-14 KJV)*** Those crippled and in need cannot come, therefore we need to go to them. Jesus told to the man who invited him that when you do banquet do not invite except the lame, the blind and the crippled. If you want to feed poor people, you can do it along the year days and no need for you to wait for December 25 for Christmas, or December 31 for New year, or February 14 for Valentine day, etc. To find a Godly wife or a Godly husband you need the leading of the Holy Spirit and not the dating in Valentine day. To reach a poor person with the Holy Spirit, you don't need to wait for pagan days celebrations. These things will weaken the service. Pergamos church was soaked with sins. Their worker they were eating what is offered to Satan and doing immoralities. Jesus gave His letter to John and John sent it to them. ***Even this message will go to churches and to workers and God want you and wants them to repent from such sins. And to be clean and pure and ready because His coming is soon; Jesus may come at any time and He wants His church to be ready.***

“16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” (Revelation 2:16 KJV) Here, the admonishment of the Lord to this church is to repent and turn away from such sins. ***He instructed them to repent quickly and turn away from all such wickedness, emphasizing to them, that their stand against persecution will not excuse them from the coming judgment of God that He will send on the church because of their sins.*** Here Jesus is admonishing the leader to repent because he is allowing people in His church and giving them the atmosphere to get involved in sexual immoralities and eat food sacrificed to idols. ***The leader of the church needs to discipline those who are living in sin, and if they are not willing to repent he need to expel them from the church. Better, that they will be away from the church, until they repent and come back and be willing to live their lives in the fear of the Lord. The ministry will not be acceptable to the Lord because of such blemishes and sins.***

Repent! The message is to the fathers, to the mothers, to the leaders of the church, God wants you to repent because you allow your children, church members and workers of the church to eat what is offered to devil and to do sexual immoralities and you are silent about it. Such ministry will not be effective because of the wrong things in the ministry that needed to be corrected. The Lord Jesus further told them, ***“Or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” (Revelation 2:16 KJV)*** Here the Lord warned them that if they will not repent, He will come and fight against them with the sword of His mouth, and the meaning of the sword here is the Word of God that is sharper than double edged sword, ***“12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Hebrews 4:12-13 KJV)*** So here the Lord promised them that if they will not repent, He will come and fight against them with the painful Word of God that will penetrate and judge their thoughts and what they are hiding inside their lives. The Lord may come and cause plagues and sicknesses. I believe that COVID 19 was and is a plague of God because of the sin of immoralities and eating food offered to demons, because of the celebrations in the churches as we mentioned previously. Even Christ's birth on December 25, Christ did not instruct us to do such. But the church took pagan days that the pagans were observing and Christianized it to make the church loved and acceptable by the Gentiles. The church used the winter Saturnalia (worship for the sun god) and made it Christmas, Christ's Birth, and used Summer Saturnalia and made John the Baptist birth. These things are not in God's Word.

If you love the people then not by banquets or parties but be led by the Holy Spirit and see what the Lord will do in the ministry.

Here those people in the church of Pergamos were holding something; they were not willing to surrender and let it go, that is why the leader needed to dealt sharply with such workers; otherwise if not the Lord Himself will come and fight those people and the church with the sword of the Spirit. And the Lord when He come to fight such people for their sins, He will overcome and He will do more painful things to cause the church to repent.

“17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” (Revelation 2:17 KJV) Here the Holy Spirit is inviting each and every one of them to listen and to heed what He is sending to them. And He is challenging them to overcome so they will receive the reward of Jesus.

What was the challenge for them to overcome? They were challenged to take away from the midst of them the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitanes. They were asked to cleanse the church from those who are doing and promoting immoralities. We have read in the Scriptures that because of the doctrine of Balaam God killed from among His people 24000, ***“And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.” (Numbers 25:9 KJV)*** as what is going in COVID 19 Pandemic. COVID 19 had affected many churches and many workers got affected and churches closed because Christ is not pleased with the service and the ministry. The same story mentioned in the New

Testament, ***“Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.” (1 Corinthians 10:8 KJV)*** 24000 was the total number of death, until Phinehas intervened and stopped the immoralities. Jesus Himself reminded us of the same story in the book of Revelation. Why churches closed? Is not because of the COVID 19 but because Christ is not pleased with the ministry. We need to cleanse ourselves and the church from such sins and from such workers who are promoting immoralities. *Here I am speaking with the workers and ministers who know God and know His Word. We need to cleanse our families and our children from immoralities and what is slaughtered to the idols and to the worldly feasts. This is the way we need to overcome.*

Moses was not the one who was doing immoralities but the people under him they did, Phinehas stood for God and dealt with the man who brought the woman to the camp and both put to death and the plague stopped.

“17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches:” (Revelation 2:17) God wants you to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and do the needful and overcome by cleansing ourselves and our workers from such sins. And the following is what they were promised and what we are promised if they or we overcome: ***“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” (Revelation 2:17 KJV)***

1. They will eat from the hidden manna: “I give to eat of the hidden manna”, which is the Word of God that we daily need in our lives, to strengthen us and to encourage us in times of troubles and to uphold us with stamina, hope, faith, and courage. God asked Moses to take manna and put it in a golden jar and put it in the Ark of the Covenant as the reminder to the people of what they ate in the wilderness. The manna in the New Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and His daily Word to us that we need as food for our souls and as direction for our lives. ***When we overcome, Jesus give us His Word and will have fellowship with us; He will help us to evangelize, protect us and help us in our lives, and even if we are pressurized the hidden manna, His Word that the Holy Spirit sent to us will help us to persevere in our lives.***

2. They will receive justification and vindication: “and will give him a white stone”, white stone was a medal given to the winner. As well as the criminal who are justified in the Romans and Greek court they will be given white stone. The white stone is our innocence. White means purity. When the person got a black stone it means the person will be punished for a crime that he did. White stone also, is a permission to enter to certain places. White stone for those who overcome as a sign of victory, a medal, or vindication and their reward from Jesus. White stone also was used that they are allowed to enter into certain places. White stone means we can enter into eternal life. Jesus wants us to overcome so we can enter eternal life, after our lives purified from sins.

3. A new name: “and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.” A new name for those who overcome, like such names: Christian, innocent, justified, or a nick name denotes their personal relationship with the Lord. For me I think when He said, ***“which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”*** It means he or she is assured from the Lord, that they have eternal life and they will be with the Lord forever. The Lord here when He give us a new names, it mean the Lord had given

us peace, joy and gladness, and assurance that He is satisfy with us and with our ministry and when He will come He will take us with Him.

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to the Lord in prayer and in repentance. If there is sin in your life, then you need to repent of it and also you need to cleanse your family and the members of your family and the church from sins, especially immoralities, because that is what the Lord has against you. God knows your work, your faith, knows also that you hold on His name, but He wants you to repent and come back to Him.

Therefore, as we heard the message of God, let us repent of all our sins, and let us commit our lives once again to God to live the plan of God that He ordained for us to live. Let us be willing to go and evangelize, and let us combat sin and especially the immoralities, and let us discipline our children and our young people and disciples about this matter. Let us follow the example of Antipas who was against all kinds of sin, and let us trust God who will help us in our endeavor to serve Him and who will protect us until He will come and take us with him to Heaven.

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 rebuked me and taught me your ways and the way that you want me to serve you. .*

Confess your sins to God. Lord forgives me the following sins
_____.

Repent and ask God forgiveness for the worldly celebrations like Halloween, Valentine, Birthdays, Christmas, New Year, Father Day, Mother Day, and the rest that you may get yourself involved with.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I receive in this message. Lord I surrender my life and my will fully to you. Lord I commit myself to evangelize reaching new people for Christ. Lord I commit myself to clean my family and the ministry and the church under my care from all kinds of sin that you are pointing out to us especially the immoralities and feast, parties and food offered to idols. Lord give me strength and patience to endure the pressure of the persecution because of your Word. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and have me fully to you. Lord give me the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I can go and serve you and evangelize and reach others and spread your Word and teach those who are willing to follow you.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives and serve you and suffer for your Word. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord deliver them from all temptations and the schemes of the devil. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to pass persecution and to endure until you come to take us with you to Heaven.

Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts 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 and 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. 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.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 48. The Letter of Jesus to the church in Pergamos Part 2. Revelation 2:12-17. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20. Luke 14:12-14. Hebrews 4:12-13. Numbers 25:9. 1 Corinthians 10:8.

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