

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 70

“25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. 26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.” (Matthew 5:25-26 KJV)

Now we will study examples in the Scriptures to teach us how to make things right with God and with man in pertains to ***Matthew 5:25-26***.

1. The incident of the ark of God when was in the territory of the Philistines after the Israelites lost the battle due to their sins of immoralities and dishonesty: While the ark was in the territory of the Philistines God did havoc to the Philistines, defeating their gods, breaking its statute, and causing them sicknesses in their bodies and losses in their farming fields. ***Let us read this story to be aware what our trespasses against God can bring on us, “1 And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. 2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. 3 And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. 4 And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. 5 Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day. 6 But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof. 7 And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. 8 They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither. 9 And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great, and they had emerods in their secret parts. 10 Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, They have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. 11 So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. 12 And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.” (1 Samuel 5:1-12 KJV)*** Therefore for all these reasons the Philistines decided to send the ark of God back to the Israelites to be relieved from God's heavy wrath and judgment that He was severely afflicting them with.

They decided to return it back with trespass offering (paying penalties for the wrong doing they had done against God) to give glory to the God of Israel: Let us read what they suggested, ***“1 And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months. 2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall***

we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place. 3 And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you. (Therefore for all these reasons of the death and sickness in the form of emerods {haemorrhoids} in their secret parts, the Philistines decided to send the ark of God back to the Israelites to be relieved from God's heavy wrath that He was severely afflicting them with. But what the things that the Philistines did wrong against God? God allowed the Philistines to win the battle but they should not take away the ark of God with them. ***Be careful not to do unnecessary things and put yourself into troubles with God.*** Therefore they decided to return it back with trespass or sin offerings, to pay back the penalties of what they did wrong in taking the ark of God to them, and those trespass offerings were the way of compensation to give glory to the God of Israel: As they suggested), ***4 Then said they, What shall be the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague was on you all, and on your lords. 5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land;*** (images if emeroids for their sicknesses, and images of rats that destroyed their fields) ***and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.*** (The Philistines who were non believers after God disciplined them, they decided to correct their wrong doings, to bring back the ark of God with trespass offerings in order to compensate, and to give glory and honour to the God of Israel, In doing that, they are paying the penalties on them, and in such a way they were looking for relieve from the judgment of God). ***6 Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?*** (They were afraid that God will do with them what He did with the Egyptians and Pharaoh and how God destroyed them when they were hard headed and stubborn not willing to send His people out for worship. The Philistines were non believers but when God disciplined them they humbled down and decided to correct their wrong doing, to send back the ark to the Israelites with trespass offerings to compensate of what they did wrong. **** Now many Christians are hard headed they trespass against God and against His church, they cause division, they pull out church members, and they mislead others, they work hard to destroy the church who teach them the truth, and they do not take heed that what they are doing is sinning against God. They are also not aware that when God is disciplining them they are reaping the judgment of God in their lives due to their trespasses. Still many of them will continue to brag with the blood of Jesus and have no sense in their conscious what havoc their sins had caused. * Yes and true, we are saved by the blood of Jesus and not by any work or by any offering, but repentance is needed, and when our sins had caused troubles, then part of our repentance is to restore, compensate and pay back what losses we had caused by our sins as Jesus taught in Matthew 5:25, and that will be the way to give glory to God. Therefore, the Philistines' priests and the diviners they suggested to return the ark of God to the Israelites in the following manner:)*** ***7 Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them: 8 And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go. 9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.*** (They suggested this way to know and to

be sure whether or not it was God's hand who struck them with death and plagues). **10 And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home: 11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.** (Notice here they used cows that never being yoked: Because yoked cows might know what to do by themselves without guidance, because they are already trained on the work. Notice also they used cows with calves that had been brought home: Cows which has calves will not be moved unless their calves with them. Since they moved spontaneously without their calves that mean that the hand of God was on them, and was moving them in the direction that God wanting them to go to bring back His ark. The cows submitted themselves to God and were moved against the law of nature, departing from their young calves, and that explains to us why they were lowing along the way, crying for their young calves, as they were submitting themselves to God's hand, and God's will and moved toward the direction that God wants them to move, as we can read). **12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.** (The scene was awesome, the cows were diligent to obey God, and the Philistines rulers were watching how God was directing the cart to its destination toward the town of Beth Shemesh. And how the cows were submitting to God's will, even overcoming their own emotions, moving away from their young calves. There was no man leading them, but the hand of the Living God leading them toward their destinations. **We learn from these animals how to submit to the will of God and go to do what He is pleased with, even if we are not happy of what He is asking from us.**) **13 And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it. 14 And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD. 15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD. 16 And when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.** (Therefore the Philistines when the cart reached Bethshemesh they were sure that God's hand was destroying them, and they were sure that they got the ark of God, not because they were military wise able, but because God was disciplining His corrupted people, the Israelites for their sins of immoralities and dishonesty in serving God. **We learn from the Philistines that we need to find out what is the root cause of the troubles that we are in by starting to seek God and find out what He is pleased with. "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."** (Ephesians 5:10 KJV)) **17 And these are the golden emerods which the Philistines returned for a trespass offering unto the LORD; for Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Askelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one;** (one for each of the five cities of the Phestines). **18 And the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both of fenced cities, and of country villages, even unto the great stone of Abel, whereon they set down the ark of the LORD: which stone remaineth unto this day in the field of Joshua, the Bethshemite. 19 And he smote the men of Bethshemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD, even he smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the LORD had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter."** (1 Samuel 6:1-19 KJV) COVID 19 was ravaging everywhere, God was executing His fierce judgment and the church was complacent and

not seeking God to repent and to compensate the havoc that did with the false teaching, the sinful practices and immoralities.

*** Now how about you after you heard this message, what you decided to do? Do you want to let things go into a wrong direction and be in danger of God's wrath that may come and fall on you at any time? "26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing."** (Matthew 5:26 KJV) *** Or you will take heed and apply the Word of God and amend your ways, "25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison."** (Matthew 5:25 KJV) *** Agree with God and reconcile with Him, and do as His Word says, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."** (2 Corinthians 5:20 KJV) Avoid escalation, and be in the safe side. Repent and pay back what is due for you to man and to God.

My dear and beloved: In **Matthew 5:25-26**, Jesus speaks clearly about the punishment that the judge will inflict on those who are deliberately trespassing against others, in order to restrain them and to force them to correct their wrong doings. **As we spoke before that when human trespasses are not restrained by authorities on earth then God Himself on His time will inflict the judgment that the person who trespassed deserves.** God had put authorities on earth, first the parents in the family, then the church, then the government, then your boss and those over you in the work. **When these authorities will not work with God to bring justice and to correct things and make those who do wrong pay for their trespasses the judgment of God will fall on those who are disobedient and will force them to pay for their wrong doings.**

Some people whom I come to contact with and teach, they will tell me that they cannot take my teaching. I answer them and tell them, I need to take care by informing you if you will not take my teaching, then what is next, is that God will teach you by Himself giving you very good lessons. Like what He did with the Philistines when they took His ark, like what He did with His people how He disciplined them for their immoralities and corruptions when He allowed them to loss the battle and even He allowed His ark to be taken by the enemy, and like what He did with the people of Bethshemesh when they misbehaved when He brought His ark to them. **When God teaches He gives hard and painful lessons.**

That is why we are taught to forgive **"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."** (Matthew 6:12 KJV) We need to forgive so God will forgive us: **"14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."** (Matthew 6:14-15 KJV) We need to forgive, we need not to plan evil or to do wrong against those who trespass against us and against the church and against those whom we did right and they repay us with evil. We should have a clean heart toward them with no bitterness, no hatred or desire to revenge against them. But that does not mean that when we forgive people who harmed us and run away that God will forgive them their sins. No, God since they did not repent and did not pay what is due to them to pay, God being the highest judge, He will deal with them and make them pay well for their trespasses on His due time, and He will bring what was taken back to us.

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 warning that you sent to me and to your church in this message.*

Confess your sins and renounce all your wrongdoings. Renounce your anger, revenge, unforgiveness, immorality, no fear of God, abuse, taking advantage, cheating dishonesty, harming others and trying to destroy them. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to abide with the instructions that I received today from your Word. Lord I commit myself to refrain from anger and revenge and to be willing to forgive those who harmed me, and to take heed of your Word and be willing to apply in my life the good plan, the good purpose and the ministry that you ordained for me to do and serve you.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and are willing to walk in your ways and do the needful according to your will in their lives. Lord help them and go before them, protect them from their enemies and from the work of the evil one. Lord help us as a church to implement your Word and heed the instructions of your Word and implement them in the life of your church and your people.

Lord we commit ourselves as a church to live the righteous life that you ordained for us to live; that our lives will be a good example to others. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and go before us, and help us to evangelize and teach your Word and make disciples and train workers so that your name will be glorified and your will be done in our midst. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 70. Pay back your trespasses. Matthew 5:25-26. 1 Samuel 5:1-12. 1 Samuel 6:1-19. Ephesians 5:10. 2 Corinthians 5:20.

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