

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 71

“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)

We continue to speak how to pay your trespasses in pertains to *Matthew 5:25-26*; we continue to study and learn in this message examples in the Scriptures to teach us how to make things right with God and with man:

2. What the Lord did with the people of Brthshemesh: “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. 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; 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. 20 And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us? 21 And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you.” (1 Samuel 6:13-21 KJV)

Bethshemes is a city in Israel and the meaning of Bethshemesh is the sun's house, something bright and shining. Now, let us see what the people of Bethshemesh did and how they responded to that particular event, when the ark of God went back to them, and let us see to what God had called them to do, and if they had fulfilled God's calling requirements:

A. They rejoiced: “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.” (1 Samuel 6:13 KJV) Rather they should mourn and repent. The ark was taken due to sin in the priestly office and they did not do anything, neither to correct the sin nor to bring it back to the priests. Now since God had returned it back, they would rather be humbled before God and commit themselves to stand firm and cleanse the priestly office. Now a day many Christians behave in the same way; they would wait for miracles and event to happen to celebrate and enjoy life but are not willing to see how to repent and come back to God. They are not willing to deal with sin and with the root causes of the havoc that

came upon them. * When God do something good to you, what He expects from you is to do something good toward Him and this when you repent and come back to Him and commit yourself once again to serve Him. *Therefore, what we need to do today is to discern the sin and to work with God to help the people to come back to God in repentance and explain to them what they need to do, otherwise they will receive the consequences of their disobedience to God.

B. They sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD: “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.” (1 Samuel 6:14 KJV) As burnt offering cows should not be used but a male without defect, as we can read here, ***“If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.” (Leviticus 1:3 KJV)*** It was not ordained for them to slaughter the two cows, but they should let them go back to their calves who were waiting for them to drink their milk. The city of the Bethshemsh were Levites and they should be the one to teach the people the Word of God but now they are doing wrong things against God's Word.

The Word of God says, ***“14 And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, ...*** Many Christians are named after the Bible names, Joshua, Daniel, Moses, David, Jeremiah, ... but their lives are opposite to their names. ***Many Christians they use to offer things that are not ordained by God to cover up their lack of commitment. Instead of bringing to God their first fruit, their tithes and offering, they will bring food, things they don't need, gifts, things they want to throw, things from non believers, etc. And the outcome of that is corrupted mind fixed on food fellowships and entertainment and church activities that cannot please God or achieve God's will; that is why the need for us to teach and disciple such people with the right way of life and to teach them how to give what is due to God.***

C. They did not bring the ark of God to its original place: “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.” (1 Samuel 6:15 KJV) There were five golden tumors and five golden rats for the five cities of the Philistines whom God afflicted them with the sickness of hemorrhoids and their fields harvests were taken by rats. The Philistines send them as trespass offerings to God to remove His plagues and His mighty hand from them. What the people of Bethshemesh did with the gold of jewels? Nothing mentioned. ***Now a day corrupted ministers they will put in their pockets and the treasury of the church always empty, and whenever you ask them, they will say no money in the church.***

What the Levites in Bethshemesh needed to do was to carry the Ark of God on their shoulders and bring it to Shiloh from where it was taken, and there they will repent and commit themselves to God. They needed to cleanse the priestly office from corruption and immoralities that were taken place in Shiloh under Eli the priest and his sons. Like now in the churches where immoralities are allowed through the practice of dating, courting, boyfriend, girlfriend, live-in relationship without marriage, divorce and remarriage.

Further the people of Bethshemesh were required to offer their lives, as burnt offerings, living sacrifices once again, and to serve God wholeheartedly. **The burnt offerings in the New Testament is to give our personal life to God in full and without reservation.** The city of Bethshemesh is a city that was a city allocated for the Levites who knew very well the Word of God and the Law of God. But they were complacent and lazy and were not willing to serve God in the manner that He ordained in His Word. What was going on from sin and corruption in the priestly office made them insensitive to the Word of God. *** When sin is not judged the people will be complacent to obey. * Many ministers, pastors and workers they know the Word of God but they are not willing to suffer to fight sin, standing firm with God, facing the people and correct them. * We need to be alert and wake up, not to allow corruption and immoralities to go on without dealing with it. We need also to stand with God and discipline ourselves and discipline our children and disciples so that God's wrath will not fall on us.**

D. They looked into the ark of the LORD: *"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 6:19 KJV) God stroke them because they should not look into the inside of the Ark of the Covenant. The Levites were prohibited to look into the ark of God as we read here, **"But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die."** (Numbers 4:20 KJV) God Himself brought the ark; may be they wanted to see and check if God had brought His ark and if something is missing from it. **Many Christians they will not do what they ought to do but they interfere and disturb of what God is doing.** They did not fear God or stood in awe in His presence, they took God for granted and that is why they look into the ark, they were checking on God if He had done His work correctly, and that is why God smote from them large number of fifty thousands and threescore and ten men (50070 men). This is a true number, and possibly God did that over a period of time. God did that because they interfered with the things that God had told them not to do. **Therefore, focus to do your ministry and your part well and do not interfere with the things that God had told you not to do.**

E. They did not repent but they mourned and murmured against God: *"20 And the men of Bethshemesh said, Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? and to whom shall he go up from us?"* (1 Samuel 6:20 KJV) *"And the people of Beth Shemesh said,"* their murmurings went in two points.

a. "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?" What they were saying, that God is so strict and who can manage to obey His law. Many Christians now a day when you speak about the discipline of God's Word they will say immediately Who can obey and who can do all these things? Or Who can obey all that? Such a language is murmuring and rebellion against God.

b. "and to whom shall he go up from us?" They were looking to hand over the responsibility of the Art of God to other people. Many Christians they just want to enjoy the blessings of God but they are not willing to suffer for Christ and abide in His Word and bear the responsibility and do the ministry faithfully.

F. They sent for someone else to do their ministry: *"21 And they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim, saying, The Philistines have brought again the ark of*

the LORD; come ye down, and fetch it up to you." (1 Samuel 6:21 KJV) They used the cow, they took the golden tumors and the golden rats; they took the material things, but they were not willing to bear God's Word and His discipline and continue to do the ministry. They throw away the ministry, their responsibilities, and the service of God and walked away when He disciplined them. **When you do wrong you need to bear the discipline of God and continue the ministry.**

G. Kirjathjearim are better than Beth Shemesh people: *"And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. 2 And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD."* (1 Samuel 7:1-2 KJV) Kirjathjearim people were better people, they feared God and have reverence to Him. They dedicated a house and a person to guard and take care of the ark. The result of their dedication is fruitful ministry; **"And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD."** **As we dedicate our lives faithfully to serve God, others will start to fear the Lord and will come back to Him.**

My dear and beloved: God is calling you today to take your stand to fear God, dedicate yourself to Him, and to serve Him wholeheartedly. There is in front of you the two examples, one is the people of Bethshemesh and their bad example, and the people of Kirjathjearim and their good example and willingness to do the work of God and care for the ministry of the Lord. God is calling you today to come back to Him, to repent and to start to serve Him. **The failure in the Levitical priesthood, the corruption among ministers, irresponsible workers, parents and pastors as people of Bethshemesh who are not willing to pay to God what is due to Him, and who are not willing to honor God all these are good reasons for you today to respond to God's call and to commit yourself fully into His service as the people of Kirjathjearim, so then all the people will turn back to the Lord, and God's blessing will continue to flow in your life.**

"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) Your adversary today is God. **Be reconciling and agree with Him, and be at peace with Him to avoid the discipline and the wrath that will come from Him; do it quickly and reconcile with God because the time may not allow you to do that if you delay.**

As workers in God's vineyards, let us learn the lessons from the true story that we meditate on. Let us accept the rebukes that we received from God's Word. Let us repent, let us amend our ways, let us pay back what we make a miss that we may serve God in the proper way and be pleasers to Him.

As a church, let us learn our lessons to be in God's standard and expectation. Let us fear Him and do what is right and just in His sight by paying back to Him and return what we ought to Him and to others. Let us amend our ways, let us heed the Word of Jesus, let us come back to serve Him with a clean heart and pure motive and do the ministry of God in His ways, Let us put our lives in the potters hand to mold us and shape us according to His Word and His will so our lives and ministries will be pleasant to Him.

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 I thank you for this clear Word that shows me clearly the way to serve you and how to commit my life to go on and walk in your ways.

Confess your sins and renounce all your wrongdoings. Renounce your complacency, lack of commitment, non willingness to face sins and corruption, murmuring and complaining against God, interfering in things not of your work and responsibility. etc. 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 laziness, and complacency, and be willing to stand with you and face sin and corruption. Lord I commit myself to do the ministry, and the task and the good work that entrusted to me to do.

Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and amended their ways; Lord restore them back to you and to the ministry, and use them to go on and serve you. Lord help us as a church to implement discipline and to continue to combat sins and corruption and deal with the serious issues that are in your church and people. Lord we pray that as we commit ourselves that others will come to you and will start to seek you and draw near to you and start to do your will.

Lord we commit ourselves as a church to live the righteous life, to be faithful and responsible to the task that you had entrusted to us. 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 fulfill your vision to the church, 'Multiplication in peace and 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. 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 71. Pay back your trespasses. Matthew 5:25-26. 1 Samuel 6:13-21. Leviticus 1:3. Numbers 4:20. 1 Samuel 7:1-2.

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