

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 72***

***“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)***

Jesus speaks clearly here about certain things that are due for us to pay to make things right. In reality what we need to give and make right is either to the people, or to the government authorities, or to God Himself. But when we refuse to do that then the situation will be escalated to certain authorities that are placed by God to deal with such wrong behavior and attitude. **As we spoke earlier the authorities that God had placed are parents, the bosses of your work, the church leaders and the offices of the government, and when these authorities are not restraining the evil doers, then God Himself will interfere and bring His judgments in the form of plagues (as in COVID 19 now), famines, natural calamities, typhoons, volcanoes, floods, wars, economic crisis, global recession, global warming, etc.**

Certain times these authorities are harsh in implementing the punishment in order to restrain the offenders and give a lesson to others not to do the same. **So when people are becoming evil, then these authorities will be more disciplinarians and will bring more violent measures to subdue rebellion, as we can see in the action of the government during riots, or in dealing with crimes, and in implementing the capital punishment in certain crimes.**

We will continue to speak in this message about the Biblical example of how to make things right with God and with man:

***3. The recommendation of God to give what is due to the government: “1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” (Romans 13:1-7 KJV)***

***“1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” (Romans 13:1 KJV)*** The governments of each and every country are put by God to govern the people and to do the things, and to offer services that God wants them to do. **That is why God's Word said “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers”, because the government authority are placed by God, and in doing so we are submitting to God.**

***“2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” (Romans 13:2 KJV)*** When you refuse to comply with the rules of the government, then you are resisting the ordinance of God, and that will bring you condemnation by these governments.

***“3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:” (Romans 13:3 KJV)*** If the people will do good and obey the rules, and do what is right they will not receive terror or troubles from the government. **The same authority who do terror to others, will give to you praise as you are willing to do good. If you drive safely, abiding with the traffic rules, not crossing the red light, and if you comply with the instruction and the guidelines of the government, paying your bills and what is due to you on time, renewing your documents on times, doing no offences, then you will have no fear from the person who is in the government, “4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.” (Romans 13:4 KJV)** When you obey rules, then the rules of the government and the governors will serve you good things and God will bless you through them. What you are going to pay, it will be used for your service. But when you do evil, then you need to be afraid, because the governor has a sword that he carry not for show but to fight those who are doing evil. **“For he is the minister of God”**; he is the servant of God, His hand and His revenge to bring and execute the wrath of God upon those who do evil, and those who break rules. When the people are evil doers, then God will make the governors harsher and less considerate to combat the wrong doings of the people. Sometimes you see certain governments are harsh with the people, the reason behind that is the people becoming more evil and disobedient to God therefore the Lord will press them down using the government authorities that He put on earth.

***“5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.” (Romans 13:5 KJV)*** The needs to obey rules and be subjects to authorities are mandatory to avoid their wrath and punishment, and to have a clear conscience and clear mind before God and men.

***“6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.” (Romans 13:6 KJV)*** Since they are doing all the following services; punishing the evil doers and rewarding and commending those who do right, and watching over the affairs of the people in providing security, administrative and other services, then they needed to be paid for their work. How they will be paid? They will be paid when we pay our tributes and the fees in processing various documents and procedures. **The meaning of tribute is honor, praise, and homage, mark of respect, esteem, and acknowledgment. So when we pay for the government we are honoring, praising, paying homage, giving respect, esteeming, and acknowledging the good work of the government to commend us when we do good, to punish us when we do evil, and in providing the rest of their various services. That is why we pay tax, customs, and the trespass offerings in the form of fines and penalties when we break rules.**

Examples of paying tax are in the following:

***“35 And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and***

*the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaohnechoh.” (2 Kings 23:35 KJV)* Here King Jehoiakim was pressed by Pharaoh King of Egypt and gave him money, but later on Jehoiakim took that money from the people in a percentage way through a tax that fell on all the people. **This happened when the people of God sinned by leaving God and worshipped idols, so God pressed them by other nation and were forced to pay tax. This is now the situation when the people of God do not honor God and sin against Him, and in withholding from Him their tithes and offerings and firstfruits, the Lord shall press them with the system of taxation, fines and penalties.**

Since the disobedience of the people of God continued with their idol worship the system of taxation continued even until the time of Jesus, ***“1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (2 And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:1-5 KJV)*** Joseph and Mary complied with the system of taxation and obeyed. They were forced to travel to the town of Joseph, to Bethlehem and to pay the tax there. **We too need to obey the system of taxation because God allowed that to discipline His people who moved away from Him, and in compliance with His Word: *“7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.” (Romans 13:7 KJV)***

Jesus also recommended that we need to pay what is due to the government as we read in the following: ***“21 And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: 22 Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no? 23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me? 24 Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's. 25 And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.” (Luke 20:21-25 KJV)*** So we need to give what is due to God and we need to give what is due to the government.

**4. Non obeying and non paying what is due to our masters at our places of work:** ***“22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Colossians 3:22-25 KJV)***

***“22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; ” (Colossians 3:22 KJV)*** Here the recommendation to obey those who are superior to us in our work places, not only when their eyes are on us and are observing us, but even in their absence we need to keep the same level of honest achievement; out of fear of God we need to be loyal and faithful and honest in our work. Some they work very good in front of their bosses to please them and make them happy to receive their favor and good

commendation, but at their backs they go worse. **Always work as if God, and not man, is watching over you and observing what you are doing.** People are disciplined before policemen but at their back they disobey. Therefore, when people dishonored that principle, then cameras and radars were introduced everywhere to catch the violators.

***“23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;” (Colossians 3:23 KJV)*** Work with all your heart as if you are working it out to the Lord and not to men. **Do your best at work and in every work you do. Men may not be honest or good, or might not be giving you your rights, but you still need to do good because all what you had done and what you are going to do all are for the Lord.**

**Why we need to do good in our work as if we are working for our God? *“24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:24 KJV)*** God shall reward us, if not here on earth, then in Heaven when we reach there, for in our good work we are serving the Lord. Some people they work only based on the amount of the salary they received. That is not correct, because in our work we are working for God to do Him certain service, and He will reward us bountifully when we obey Him.

***“25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Colossians 3:25 KJV)*** Knowing that if we do wrong then we will be repaid by God either directly or indirectly through the authorities that God had placed over us in the world, from the bosses of our work or from the offices of the government.

The same we read in Ephesians, ***“5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.” (Ephesians 6:5-8 KJV)*** \* In doing well at our places of work, then we are doing the will of God. Further we need to be obedient to our masters and their instructions. We need to be polite with them and not to answer them back. \* Learn to apologize and say sorry for your mistakes. Don't say to your boss if you don't like me send me home. The job that you have is from God and when you say bad words to your boss then you are answering God. \* Put also in your mind that the masters had great responsibilities to put things together so services will be provided and the work will continue and employees will receive their salaries on time.

***“9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;” (Titus 2:9 KJV)*** In addition, ***“10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” (Titus 2:10 KJV)*** \* The Word 'Purloining', the meaning of it is to set apart or separate the place of your work for your own self use; that you will use the place of your work, not that you will give service but to use it for your own benefit, to get people to serve you, to get customers, to get commission, to promote your products, to promote your part time business, etc. \* Similar to purloining and using the place of work is stealing, by taking out money and other things from your masters and from the places that you are working without their will, knowledge, permission or approval.

***“10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” (Titus 2:10 KJV)*** If you avoid such bad attitude and sins, then you can teach them and point out to them and others to Christ and to His Word and to the right way of life, by your good example, being honest, working hard, faithful, not grumbling, not opportunistic, fruitful, and by building up through good work, through good attitude, by the fruit of the Holy Spirit and by prayers wishing the blessings of God to come in the place that you are working.

***My dear and beloved:*** How many of you are praying for the places that you are working? How many of you are praying before you start your work? How many of you are praying for your boss? How many of you are keen to be good example to others? How many of you are focus that you will be a blessing to the place that you are working and not only waiting for the end of the month to receive your salary? Work in a good manner, joyfully, and in good attitude as we described so that your labour will be fully rewarded: work in a way that you will direct others to Christ: work in such a way that others will honor Christ and His Word.

Let us now come to the Lord and check ourselves with God’s Word and let us see whether we are walking in the ways of God, or whether we are in the evil way and in danger of God’s judgment. Let us repent of our wrong doings, let us reconcile with God and be at peace with Him by giving what is due to man, to the government and to the people. Let us commit ourselves to obey the rules of the government and to pay whatever due for us to pay. Let us refrain from evil and correct quickly our wrong doings and do what is right to avoid the coming judgment of God and let us work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

Let us humbly walking with God and observing His Word so when Jesus will come He will take us with Him. And as we are waiting for Christ to come let us do what is just and right so we will be taken in the rapture to meet our Lord in the air.

When He says, ***“24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:24 KJV)*** Our inheritance is in Heaven, so if we live for Christ and conduct our affairs in a right manner, we are assured of our salvation and the place in Heaven, the eternal inheritance that Jesus had prepared for us. On earth we are servants to others, but we have a reward, the eternal life from God our Father in Heaven, through the blood of Jesus our Master. Let us now forgive those who hurt us and those who took what is due for us because we know we have our reward from God that kept in Heaven for us. Let us continue to do good and do not let anything to disqualify us from the prize, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

***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 your Word that show me clearly how to act and conduct my affairs with you, in my work place and with the offices and the services of the government and their rules.

*Confess now your sins and renounce all your wrongdoings. Renounce disobedience and your lack of commitment towards God and His Word, your disobedience to the rules and the laws of the government, your non willingness to pay what is due to God and to*

*man, your bad attitude in your working place and toward your superiors. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*Lord I commit myself to abide with the instructions that I received today from this message. Lord I commit myself to give what are due to you from tithes, offerings and firstfruits, and to pay what are due to the government from tax, fines and penalties. Lord I commit myself to obey the rules and the regulations of the governments and those who are in authority. Lord I commit myself to be a good example in my work place, to work hard and diligently knowing that you are watching me and you will reward me.*

*Lord thank you for my brethren and sisters who repented and amended their ways; Lord use their lives and their good examples that others may know you and follow you. Lord I pray for them that you will protect them, provide for them and meet all their needs so they will continue to go on and serve you and do the work of you.*

*Lord help us as a church to continue to teach your Word and your commands. Lord add to us faithful laborers who are willing to serve you and set their lives for you. 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 our 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. 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 72. Pay back your trespasses Matthew 5:25-26. Romans 13:1-7. 2 Kings 23:35. Luke 2:1-5. Luke 20:21-25. Colossians 3:22-25. Ephesians 6:5-8. Titus 2:9-10.

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