

Luke 6

The Lord of the Sabbath

([1 Samuel 21:1-9](#); [Matthew 12:1-8](#); [Mark 2:23-28](#))

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

Q. What do you suppose is meant by that?

If you read each of these verses 1 Samuel 21:1-9, Matthew 12: 1-8 and Mark 2:23-28 you will find that God places the higher value on man over objects or even the Law.

God simply said to keep the Sabbath Holy.

*Jeremiah 17:24 And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, **to do no work** therein;*

*Deuteronomy 5:12 **Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it,** as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.*

*Isaiah 58:13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, **not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:***

The above verses as well as others paint a picture from God that keeping the Sabbath Holy was an important law; but what was

God's intent on keeping this one day Holy through the Old Covenant?

This next verse is a culmination of man's interpretation of this Law of the Sabbath.

John 9:16 Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

I defy anyone to find anywhere in Scripture especially the law that God would not want or allow anyone to do something Good on the Sabbath.

The problem lies with man, not only man's interpretation but man's desire to attain power over others and sustain that power. What better way than through written Law.

We can see this principal at work even today in the US. Congress and governments around the world; make laws that govern all of the common folks, but they often exempt themselves from specific laws that would make their lives as complicated as they make the lives of those whom they perceived to govern. Unlike the religious leaders that were in place due to genetic lineage, our leaders are elected. Both act in reprehensible ways simply due to the fact that

they have the power to do so. Some claim their power from God others from “the governed”. Regardless of the basis of power, power can and is often abused.

Jesus intends to set the religious leaders straight as to their power over mankind. It will not set well as it challenges the power brokers of the day.

John Emerich Edward Dalberg Acton, first Baron Acton (1834–1902). The historian and moralist, who was otherwise known simply as Lord Acton, expressed this opinion in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887:

"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men."

Time changes some things but not the immorality of mankind; only Christ can do that.

1And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing *them* in *their* hands.

The first issue to discern here is the term “second sabbath” vs “first sabbath”. Even this is argued among commentators. The term “first sabbath” is argued it is within the span of time called the Jubilee. Jubilee was 50 years and there was a beginning and an end to the 50 years of Jubilee. The first sabbath in that 50 years would be referred to the “first sabbath” and the “second first

sabbath” would be the first sabbath of the second year in the 50 year cycle of Jubilee.

Now there may be a simpler explanation of this term based on content of the verses; “first and second” in relation to the time that Jesus was doing something at a certain time. IE: Jesus in chapter 5 healed the paralytic that was lowered down through the roof of a house. In this event Christ revealed that He had power to forgive sins; a monumental revelation that was not received well by the ruling religious leaders. So, the next Sabbath would then be the “first sabbath” after that monumental revelation and the “second sabbath” would be second Sabbath again after that momentous event of forgiving man’s sin.

<http://gods-word-first.org/bible-study/613commandments.html>

Now to the point of the verse; those assigned to follow Jesus and His disciples are filing a complaint as to what the disciples are doing.

2And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?

Exodus 20: 8Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11For in six days the

LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Exodus 23:12 [12](#)Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.

The law is pretty simple, rest, take it easy, don't exert yourself or your livestock or your hired help on the Sabbath. The religious leaders made a number of amendments to this Law of God and put in extremely narrow or in some cases expanded allowances.

For example, from Bible-History.com is this about how far one could travel on the Sabbath; we saw earlier that you were to remain in your place IE Home or hometown as some understand it on the Sabbath.

Over the centuries the authorities within the rabbinical circles of Judaism found ways, from examining the miniscule details of the law, to increase the distance that an Israelite may travel on the Sabbath day. In ancient times they determined that one may travel on the Sabbath from within the city boundaries and this distance was fixed at 2,000 cubits. They based this on Joshua 3:4-5:

"And they commanded the people, saying, When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about 2,000 cubits by measure; come not near it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore."

The cubit is 17.5" short or 20.4" long Hebrew Cubit. Based on those lengths a person could travel between roughly ½ to ¾ of a mile on the sabbath under the law.

So, if you were hungry and you were standing in a field of wheat, which would be sin anyway unless it was within the city limits; doubtful, it was a sin to pull off the wheat head, rub it between your hands, blow off the chaff and eat the wheat berries; it was a sin of work.

This allegation was made by at least one of those assigned to follow Christ at the direction of the religious leaders. In this response Jesus will make a defense of what His disciples did but will clear it up even more in Mark 2.

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

All of the laws that the Jews added to God's law worked from the premise that man was made for the Sabbath and that anything man did aside from walk a short distance and sit was a sin.

3And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him; 4How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

5And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Jesus closes His response with a succinct response that further angered them. That is that He said that the “Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath”. He just told them that He was the Lord of the Sabbath as well as Lord over sin and sickness.

Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

(Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6)

6And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered. 7And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

The ever-vigilant power brokers of the day would of course be watching with a biased eye toward anything Jesus was going to do; both in speech and action.

8But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

Christ had no fear of man nor spirit. He knew their thoughts; again, those who were tasked by the religious leaders to follow Jesus and make accusations. In spite of knowing they were there

to observe and report any violation of law Jesus did what Jesus did; He healed, and He Loved.

9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy *it*?

Knowing the thoughts of the religious spies He openly displays His disdain for their lack of compassion and love by inviting the man with the withered hand to stand up so there was no doubt that everyone's attention was on him. Jesus then asks this man a question, not religious spies but the common man that would undoubtedly know the law but would likely have been made to feel that he was unqualified to answer questions about the law. That was reserved for the more learned religious powers.

Therein lies a truth about the New Covenant. A relationship with Christ allows all mankind to have understanding of the law and relationship with God and His Christ. We have been given that ability under the New Covenant. We are encouraged to study and understand in essence God's letter to us; the Bible.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

God wants you to have a relationship with Him and in that relationship to study His Word which is Truth. In that process of relationship building and study you will understand.

November 3, 2019

10And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other. 11And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

Verse 11 brings to mind an issue today; hatred for a person or a belief that on its face seems to want to help but is cast as evil and demonic. That is the hatred of President Trump by the left. I am not comparing President Trump in any way to Jesus, I am comparing the hatred that has erupted in this country toward an individual and those who follow him as being “madness” or deranged.

11And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

I believe a good case can be made Biblically that hatred comes from Satan.

This is obviously about Jesus, their hatred of Him was based more on the power that they might lose than seeking a clear understanding as to what or who He was. Jesus had done only good toward individuals, healing them of physical infirmities, setting them free of the burden of their sins, reuniting families, bringing home mothers and fathers that were isolated due to certain illnesses.

We all get the point that these men were steeped in the law their entire lives; being confronted by a man that was declaring Himself equal with God was an affront to everything they knew.

If they would have taken the time to search the Law and the Prophets and inquire of Jesus as to what things meant they would have had their eyes opened and seen the truth. But Satan blinded them to that and the need for power for some was overwhelming.

The Anti-Christ upon his arrival will do a similar thing declaring himself to be God and demanding worship. There are vast differences between Jesus and the anti-Christ. The anti-Christ is all about power, Jesus was all about love, mercy and forgiveness. But many will fall in the end times to follow after the anti-Christ

and believe him to be a deity. In a lost world satan has again blinded people to TRUTH; people in ours and many cultures believe truth to be whatever they think it is. In an age of fake news, fake facts and people willing to believe more in what is on the internet or some blog than God's Word will cause them to lose everything.

The religious leaders could have sought understanding and been taught by the Creator Himself, but they preferred to anchor themselves in the law and not the Creator God. In the end times people will prefer to anchor themselves in the creation; environmentalism and other religions than in the Creator God.

The Twelve Apostles

(Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19)

12And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; 14Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, 15Matthew and Thomas, James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, 16And Judas *the brother* of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Vs 12 declares that Christ was in "prayer"

Phonetic Spelling: (pros-yoo'-khom-ahee)

Definition: to pray

Usage: I pray, pray for, offer prayer.

literally, to interact with the Lord by switching human wishes (ideas) for His wishes as He imparts faith ("divine persuasion").

Bible Hub

Pray is really just talking to God, actively speaking to Him and actively listening to His response. But how does God speak to us?

There have been times when I have heard a small inner voice that is not audible to the world but inside each of us we have that ability to hear God through the Spirit in our Spirit. We can learn to heed that voice and respond according to it or we can ignore it. I have learned over time that if I ignore it even in the slightest thing I will regret it. If I heed it I have found it saves me from frustration even in very small things.

I will tell you a story of a man that I know who an Army Range for over 20 years was. He had made many deployments and had experience injuries consistent with many parachute jumps. When he retired from the military, he was given a full medical exam which revealed a neck vertebrae injury that the Army decided needed to be fixed on his exit. During surgery they miscalculated and paralyzed him from the neck down. When I first met this man he was in a wheel chair that he could move about by pushing a tube with his head that was connected to the drive system on the

chair. His hands were badly gnarled up due to atrophying of his muscles. He could barely turn his head to look at you.

He had been in this condition for about 5 years when we met. We became friends and within a year he was standing using a walker. He related how that had come about. He had decided he was going to end his life and through conversations with nurse discovered that if he took a certain combinations and dosages of his medication he could end his life.

On the morning he had selected to end his life just prior to taking the medication he said he asked God if He was really there. This man was not a believer as you might imagine from that question.

He went on with his question: God if you are really there, what do you want me to do?

He said he heard a literal voice speak clearly to him and it said; "Get up!" This man said he laughed and responded to the voice saying, "I'm paralyzed I can't get up". The man said the voice repeated what it had said; "Get up!" With all the strength he could muster he was able to get his legs to slide off the side of the bed. He said he could not feel a thing but in a moment he was standing on his feet with the rest of his body leaning against the bed.

From that day on this man continued to work on learning how to walk again and today if you saw him walk up to you, you would not know that he is still paralyzed from the neck down. He has no feeling whatsoever below his neck. His strength in his grip is incredible. He has a wonderful attitude about life and love Christ with his whole heart. He is a walking miracle and gives all credit to God. In his case he heard the voice of God and obeyed.

Q. What do we do when we hear the voice of God in our lives?

The conversation Jesus had with His Father in Heaven took all night according to this verse. In the end, it tells us that the 12 disciples were chosen.

Q. What is the difference between Disciple and Apostle besides the spelling.

The Greek word for apostle

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-os'-tol-os)

Definition: a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle

Usage: a messenger, envoy, delegate, one commissioned by another to represent him in some way, especially a man sent out by Jesus Christ Himself to preach the Gospel; an apostle.

Whereas the Greek word for Disciple is;

Phonetic Spelling: (math-ay-tes')

Definition: a disciple

Usage: a learner, disciple, pupil.

So, it depends on the context and position; a disciple is like a student; learning about something.

An Apostles is a messenger, sent out on a mission by an authority.

Apparently there were more than 12 disciples of Christ but He chose 12 to go on a special mission and they were called His Apostles.

Jesus Ministers to a Great Crowd

(Matthew 4:23-25)

17And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

We just learned the difference between disciples and apostles and now we see that Christ came down with them; the them are His disciples which number ostensibly more than 12 but we are not told the exact number.

A large group of people came to near where Jesus had spent the night in prayer. It is referenced by many scholars as an area called the Horns of Hattin, it is an ancient volcano that sits above the Sea of Galilee. Wikipedia photo



Even though Israel is small compared to any state in the United States it was still some distance to travel; It would be about 35 miles from Tyre and 50 miles from Sydon to the area around Galilee.

Jesus came down from the top of this ancient volcano to a plain; meaning a level or flat spot where he meet this large group of people.

Vs 17 tells us that this large group of people came for two reasons; to hear Jesus speak and to be healed of their diseases.

This large group of people were made up of “to rigid and careless Jews, to Romans and Greeks, to Phoenicians from Tyre and Sidon, and to nomad Arabs from Idumaea.”; according to Pulpit Commentary.

Q. Does anyone remember the lineage of Idumaea?

The word in English is Edom and the father of the Edomites was Esau the twin brother of Jacob; their father being Isaac who was the son of Abraham.

18And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. **19**And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed *them all*.

We are not told how many, but a number of these people were “vexed with unclean spirits”.

Many commentators are silent on the understanding of this term “unclean spirits”. There are several approaches to understanding this scripturally. The first is that these unclean spirits are of the demon nature, led by satan to attack and possess in some measure human beings.

Phonetic Spelling: (ak-ath'-ar-tos)

Definition: unclean, impure

Usage: unclean, impure.

169 *akáthartos* (an adjective, derived from [1](#) /A "not" and [2513](#) /katharós, "clean, purged") – properly, not pure (because mixed), i.e. adulterated with "a wrong mix" and hence "unclean" (because tainted by sin). Bible.org

The Strong's definition of “unclean spirit” above seems to indicate a clean spirit is made an unclean spirit by its mixing together.

That mixing together started at the Garden with the fall of man

through sin. All then became in what might be described as “unclean spirits”.

An alternative understanding would be that sin in the life of any human opens them up to demon possession. The exception would be a Christian, even though involved in committing a sin the believer would not be accessible by demons for possession but may be influenced by demons if they continue in sin. The reason Christians are not available to demons for possession is found in the basics of our redemption.

Acts 20:28 [28](#)Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

Purchased with His Own Blood

1 Corinthians 6:[20](#)For ye are **bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Bought with a price; that price was Jesus' Blood

1 Corinthians 7: [23](#)Ye are **bought with a price**; be not ye the servants of men.

John 1: [12](#)But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: [13](#)Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

God's perfect Will was that all men would be saved, in His Permissive Will God allows all men to choose; God makes it quite impossible once you hear the Truth of what was done for each of us to reject that Truth. However, the will of man can and often does reject the Truth of Christ. Those people are highly susceptible to the demon possession.

*John 14: [23](#) Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. [24](#) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.*

Matthew 26: [41](#) Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

For the believer it really comes down to our defense against powers and principalities being; **OBEDIENCE** to God's Word. As believers we must fight that fight daily against the desires of the flesh and walk in obedience to God's Word.

The last part of verse 19

[19](#) And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

Apparently, there were so many people in need of healing that Jesus could not physically deal with all of them, so He allowed His

power to go out from Him by merely touching Him or His garments.

Be careful here in that there are some who would take this verse somewhere it does not take us. This was specific to Jesus, it did not even include His Disciples at least at this point. Be very careful about taking a verse out of its context and making a doctrine of it that is not intended. The Power that comes through the Holy Spirit is neither for sale nor ill-intentioned acquisition. It is decided upon solely by the Holy Spirit to carry out God's mission.

Acts 8: [17](#)Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. [18](#)And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, [19](#)Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. [20](#)But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. [21](#)Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. [22](#)Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. [23](#)For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. [24](#)Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Back to vs 19, the power that left Jesus simply by touching His garments is not a license to create an industry of healings. There was one exception to this and this has been taken to an extreme as well and that is "prayer cloths". In Act we find this verse;

Acts 19: [11](#)And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: [12](#)So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

The Sons of Sceva

[13](#)Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. [14](#)And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. [15](#)And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

I believe God placed this event contiguous with the cloths sent out from Paul as a warning. Just because someone else is given a certain power from the Holy Spirit don't think that it is intended for you. If God wants you to have a certain power such as Healing, He will make it abundantly clear as to what you are to do. That goes for all the Gifts of the Spirit. So be careful not to fall into false doctrine nor create false doctrine by saying something that is not verifiable through God's Word.

November 24, 2019

The Beatitudes

([Psalm 1:1-6](#); [Matthew 5:3-12](#))

[20](#)And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

Jesus often used Old Testament or put a better way; verses from the Law and Prophets as a basis for a way to declare the New Covenant. As an example, this is from Psalms 1, which Jesus uses the same format;

1Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Some could take verse Mark 6:20 as saying that only poor people will inherit the kingdom of God. I am pretty sure that is not what is meant here. To find out we need to define the word “poor”. Most of us would think it has to do with wealth or lack of it which in our vernacular is quite accurate. But what did Jesus mean when He said it?

Strong's concordance defines this word "poor" like this;

Phonetic Spelling: (pto-khos')

Definition: (of one who crouches and cowers, hence) beggarly, poor

The word used is not about wealth it is about appearance, look or facade.

The idea is that a poor person usually does not put on ostentatious airs, but is contrite, humble, having nothing of value to boast of and feeling nothing of pride in possessions. The idea of a person who has stooped down at the waist to not give a manner of power is what is meant. So, we can say with confidence if it is a heart condition revealed by an outward appearance; contrite, humble that will inherit God's Kingdom then we can say with equal assurance the heart condition of those who put on airs of dominance, haughty and fleshly power will not inherit God's Kingdom unless they humble themselves before God and repent; seeking Christ as their Savior.

So, verse 20 simply means that the "humble will inherit the Kingdom of God.

**21Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled.
Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.**

Jesus will continue to identify certain characteristics that separate the flesh from the spirit. He is not speaking specifically of fleshly hunger here even though that can be partially what He speaks of but;

Q. What type of hunger is Jesus talking about?

Spiritual food; Spiritual Truth that leads to Spiritual Knowledge, God's Knowledge. God's knowledge is far above man's knowledge or understanding.

1 Corinthians 3: [19](#)For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. [20](#)And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. [21](#)Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; [22](#)Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; [23](#)And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

As humans before being born again, there was a thirst or hunger for what is really true. Blaise Pascal said;

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made know through Jesus Christ.”

The notion that a person has this void strikes mankind at different ages, some as children recognize that there are so many questions and no answers. So, they begin a quest for truth and

search in often all the wrong places. Drugs, witchcraft, sex, gambling, drinking; Satan has a list of lies that can drag mankind into all types of deviant behavior and all of them disguised as truth or a new age term perhaps nirvana.

Jesus includes in vs 21 the idea of those who weep now will laugh in the future. The focus is on those who are mistreated here in this earthly life, not just due to misfortune even though that can be part of it, but He speaks of those who follow Him and are mistreated because of their belief to the point of tears. It is those who will be rewarded at the Judgement Seat of Christ; forever innocent, with that verdict of rewards from the lips of Jesus, their tears will turn into joy and laughter not at those who are found guilty but out of pure joy in the Spirit will they laugh. A laughter perhaps like the pure laugh of a baby that is delighted by someone who loves tickling them. As believers we will be tickled beyond belief by being in the presence of the God of Creation and we will laugh the laugh of the innocent.

Romans 14: [10](#)But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:[10](#)For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

This judgement seat of Christ is called the Bema seat, although “Bema” is not a Biblical term it came from the Roman culture around the Olympics when a judge would sit on an elevated platform and determine which order runners crossed the finish line. Perhaps you can see the inference here between this type of elevated judges platform and the implications of Jesus judging only Christians for the work they performed in His Name referred to in Romans 10:14. This Bema seat is not a seat of judgement but of weighing out the effort put forth; as in a race one person comes in first, the next is second place, both finished the race but, in an order, based on performance. This performance is never to be confused with Salvation; Salvation is not based on Works it is based solely on Christ and His Blood on the cross.

Rewards are based on obedience in this case what we would call performance after Salvation has been received.

22Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

This verse enhances what we have just spoken of. Jesus calls people blessed when men hate you. Not hatred of you for you, but hatred of you for what you believe and refuse to deny; that Christ is the Messiah Son of God and that He died for all our sins.

We all have the ability to act in a way that people won't like us; it is called among other things as being obnoxious or boorish. If people don't like us because we are that type of person, don't put that in the same category as being disliked for our Christian belief.

Romans 8:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. 15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. 16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

The prescription given here is to NOT be obnoxious or boorish in our lives as Christians. Self-awareness is key in how others perceive us. If people don't want to be around you, don't just assume it is your belief in Christ do a self-examination and see if perhaps it is our personal behavior that is off putting.

We have seen it over the centuries as men have hated Christ Himself and have cast that same hatred upon men and women who love Christ with their whole hearts. It is those whom Jesus calls "Blessed" in vs 22.

23Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Verse 23 harken back to verse 21

21Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

The day that we will be filled and laugh is the same day that we stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ not for punishment but for the rewards, which He longs to give us for our faithfulness. In that day at that rewards ceremony we will leap for joy not only for the reward we are given but for the understanding we gain at that moment; what being in Christ's presents for ever really means.

This is quoted from Pulpit Commentary; Bible.org

Well and faithfully did his followers in after, days fulfil their Master's prophetic charge. Not only did men like Paul and his brother apostles welcome persecution "for the Name" with joy, but long after Paul and his fellows had "fallen asleep," Christians in well-nigh every populous centre of the empire followed the same glorious lead. Indeed, we find the great teachers of the faith positively condemning the fiery zeal of men and women who even too literally obeyed this and other like charges of their adored Master, who positively courted a painful martyrdom, too willingly throwing away their lives, so deeply had words like these burned into their souls. The terrible persecutions which many of the old Hebrew prophets underwent were well known. These men of God endured this treatment during several generations, while evil princes sat on the thrones of Judah and Israel. Thus Elijah mourned the wholesale massacre of his brother prophets when Ahab and Jezebel reigned ([1 Kings 19:10](#)). Urijah was slain by Jehoiakim ([Jeremiah 26:23](#)). Jeremiah himself underwent long and painful persecution. Amos was accused and banished, and, according to tradition, beaten to death. Isaiah, so the Jews said, was sawn asunder by

order of King Manasseh. These are only a few instances of the treatment which faithful prophets of the Lord had undergone.

There will be abundant reasons to leap for Joy and Laugh a Holy Laugh at the entrance into Heaven and the presence of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and these many fearless prophets and martyrs of the past.

Woes

(Amos 6:1-7)

24But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

Just as Christ described the humble and contrite as “poor” here He uses wealth to describe those who are the arrogant and self-righteous, sanctimonious and haughty, believing in man’s abilities instead of God. Worshiping creation instead of the Creator.

Vs 24 for those who rely on their money, possessions to see them through the tough times they have already received their inheritance.

So there are two types of riches; earthly riches IE: gold, silver, dollars, yen and property that is temporal- “You can’t take it with you”, and then there is Heavenly riches; the most valued to a believer is the possession of; Mercy, Grace and Love by God and through that forgiveness and eternal life with Christ.

Which do you prefer?

25Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

This verse is the antithesis of vs 21 for the possessor of these attributes during eternity is a place of fire, wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus in Matthew 13 uses several parables to describe the plight of those referred to here in vs 25.

Matthew 13: 41The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

The mirror image of the outcomes for the believer and the non-believer.

26Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Mankind will adore these men and women who have turned their backs on God and extoled the wisdom of man. Who steal from the poor and love money over anything else?

As God has told us it is not money that is evil it is the love of money. Love can only serve one master; you cannot love two masters.

Not to pick on or judge anyone but I watched a report on an advertisement for Celine Dion yesterday; if you had to decide is this nurturing and uplifting of Christ and God or of Satan, which do you think it is?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T42P_8176TA&feature=share&app=desktop

Love Your Enemies

([Leviticus 24:17-23](#); [Matthew 5:38-48](#))

27But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

Perhaps one of the most challenging verses in the Bible, our fleshly nature reacts to hatred with hatred, but Jesus is asking us to relinquish the flesh and its auto response to hate, by loving those who hate us. It is hard to put into words what that looks like, but we know it when we see it.

I know a man that lost his 15-year-old daughter to a man fleeing the police. The police had stopped chasing this man because the situation had gotten too dangerous in downtown Spokane. The

fleeing man however continued to drive in excess of 100mph on Sprague Ave.

This man, a Christian man, I know was driving a Chevy Suburban with his wife and three daughters all who lived in Old Town Idaho. He was at a stop light and when it changed, he started through the intersection and was hit at 100 MPH by the fleeing suspect. When my friend's vehicle came to a stop his wife asked the girls if they were alright. Two answered yes but said their sister who sat between them was no longer in the car. She apparently had not fastened her seat belt and was ejected through an open window and killed when she landed on the street.

This friend, about 6 months later went to the jail cell and forgave the other driver who was Muslim and an illegal alien in our country. That is what forgiveness looks like but to reach that point seems a bridge too far within our flesh. It can only be accomplished within and through the Spirit of God.

28Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

We are told; "bless them that curse you"...

Strong's has the word Bless in vs 28 as;

Phonetic Spelling: (yoo-log-eh'-o)

Definition: to speak well of, praise

Usage: (lit: I speak well of) I bless; pass: I am blessed.

To bless someone that curses us is to “speak well of them”.

“and pray for them which despitefully use you.”

Praying is really just talking with God. So, if we are to “pray for them which despitefully uses us”.

According to Webster’s;

Despitefully: means

: expressing malice or hate

We are not to return to them words that express malice or hate, but we are to reply with words of Love and Grace.

29And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also. 30Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again.

Our physical life is to take second to our Spiritual existence. It is easy to say and often hard to actually carry out to not respond in the flesh but respond with kindness through the Spirit when we are subjected to physical or verbal abuse. Not only is Jesus telling us to not respond to violence with violence but also if someone takes our possessions, we are not to demand them back. Now

that is personally a challenge for me, I will admit. Gill in his commentary couches it a bit differently; he infers that the intent is not to have a public display of disagreement. It harkens to God's position on not suing a brother or sister in Christ due to the public display of a disagreement. It does not say that disagreements won't happen just because you capitulate, it simply says not to make a public display of your disagreement and the suggested manner is; give in to the other person's will and that seems to include non-believers as well. So we as believers are to respond with hospitality and love when demands are made upon us.

I always wonder if there is a line that is crossed by an aggressor that even as Christians we are to take a stand. I have wrestled with this for years as a peace officer and a Christian. I may be on dangerous ground here, but I will lay out my case and you can examine it Biblically.

I begin with a question:

Q. How much does God value human life?

There are perhaps at least two perspectives on that. Does God put higher value on the flesh or the spirit? I believe we can find most Christians conclude that God's emphasis is on the things of

eternal value which would point to the Spirit as being most highly valued by God.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

The term meat is defined in Strong's concordance;

Phonetic Spelling: (bro'-sis)

Definition: eating, food

Usage: (a) abstr: eating, (b) food, a meal, (c) rust.

It is identified as an abstract idea, in other words not really food but the ideal of preserving our own fleshly lives. Food that we eat to sustain our flesh will not endure, we become hungry again. However, the Food that God provides for our Spirit quenches our hunger once we have taken it in and grown through its inherent properties. That food is the Word of God, it is what we are to feed on daily.

Another question.

Q. Was Jesus raise from the dead in Spirit or in body?

He rose in both; Body and Spirit. Apparently, the Body after resurrection takes on certain abilities that were not present in the pre-resurrection flesh. The most obvious is eternal life. The Body that was Christ's including the scars on His Body was raised from

the dead the temporal, to everlasting life and will be His for eternity.

Christ was not in bodily form prior to His birth, He was a Spirit that became an Incarnate being. There are indications that Jesus manifested Himself as in images that the human eye could see in the Old Testament; called Christophanies.

Jesus before His birth on earth was equal with God and the Holy Spirit but an individual being. Jesus laid aside His omnipotent power and knowledge and came to earth as a human being and the only Son of God, possessing both eternal and temporal existence like any man or woman. But with one huge difference; He was the only man to exist since Adam that had a living untainted Spirit within Him. Jesus walked a sinless life of obedience to God and maintained that pure untainted eternal Spirit until the cross.

At the Cross that pure untainted Spirit of Christ was declared by God to be guilty of all man-kinds sin and the penalty was death, it was the only way to save mankind from Satan. Jesus fleshly body could feel pain and He agonized over what He knew was to come and asked God to let that cup pass from Him (take the task away) but then declared that; He, Jesus did not want His Will to be done but instead wanted the Father's Will to be done. In other words,

I'd rather not do this, but I know it must be done, so let it be so Father.

The enemies of God killed His Son and God did not stop them. He allowed a public display of non-resistance to an obvious hostile enemy whose hearts were led by Satan to destroy any way possible, the Son of God the rightful heir to the Throne of God.

There are many examples throughout the Old Testament where God intervened on behalf of His Chosen people in bloody battles and wars. God would give strength and power to those who were obedient to Him and He would crush the fleshly enemy and allies of Satan.

With so many examples of the opposite approach by God Himself in defense of His Own People how are we to understand that in the New Covenant we are to stand down and allow the enemy or an assailant to have his way with or against Christians or weaker people?

I would note that in the context of what God is asking us in obedience in the New Covenant it has to do with physical possessions and to an extent our physical life. I cannot find a place where God is asking us to surrender our lives to Satan but

instead put on what He calls the Full Armor of God. This verse is in relation to spiritual battles, but we are finding that in today's Satanic economy of this world the spiritual battle is embracing the physical and mental existence as well. The battlefield is for the body, soul and mind of all living men and women, boys and girls.

Q. How far do we let the enemy advance into those two arenas before we say enough and take a Biblical stand for those who are about to be destroyed?

Quite simply WE don't allow Satan to advance! It is not up to US, it is solely up to God.

I personally have carried a gun for nearly 50 years and continue to do so. I have in those years, about 30 of them, taken an oath to protect human life. In that time, I have taken the life of one man who was trying to kill another person. I have no regrets in that decision; in fact, I believe I was being used by God to save a life. I still feel obligated to defend human life by any means necessary, but I don't believe I can tell you the same thing. That is up to God how He wants you to respond to physical attacks.

I believe the case is stronger Biblically for me to lay down my weapon and rely solely on God for His protection than is the case for me to take up my gun and insert myself in God's Plan.

Each of you will have to make that decision, walk in obedience to what you understand God is telling you about turning the other cheek and giving your personal possessions to a thief or stronger person who is determined to take your possessions.

Personally, I would not kill a person for stealing my possessions, but I would not allow that same person to take your life if I am there and have the ability to stop them.

Don't take my final analysis as your own, you have to come to that conclusion with God as your source not me.

31And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Do unto others and you would have them do unto you. I would not steal from another and would prefer they not steal from me. I would not kill another unless he/she intends to kill an innocent person in my presence. I would expect no different behavior if I were to try to kill an innocent person, I would fully expect someone else to stop me by killing me. So, my intent is to never kill an innocent person.

32For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank

have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. 36Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

This portrays a glaring flaw in my argument to take a life in order to save a life with a single exception. I am not so sure I would kill a person today that is trying to kill me, I hope I would only use force to prevent them from killing you. My life is not mine it belongs to Jesus and it is something that no enemy can take from me, I give it willingly.

If I intervene in someone's attempt to take your life, I do not feel that this person that is trying to kill you is my enemy, he/she is your enemy. I am an independent 3rd party with the ability to stop what is going on. Should I or should I not intervene?

When I killed that man in defense of another, I was not angry with him, I was simply trying to stop him from doing what he was intent on doing and that was taking an innocent life.

I first tried to dissuade him with a show of force; my weapon and verbal commands to drop his knife. When that did not work, I tried to disarm him with less than lethal force; a night stick. When that

failed and only after he stabbed my partner, did I resort to lethal force, shooting him 4 times, or until he stopped trying to kill my partner or myself. I was not angry, I was not trying to judge his motives, I was simply stopping him from taking another humans life.

Immediately upon stopping him I went to his aid, trying to find a way to keep him alive, but that failed as well and he died right there on the street where it all began. I believe I took a life controlled by Satan now beyond hope incapable of repenting and seeking the face of Christ. I did not intend to commit this man to eternity in hell, my only intent was to stop him from ending a life that perhaps had not made that decision to repent as well. What would give this man the right to steal that opportunity from the innocent person. You might ask what gave me the right to choose between the two? That right is found in Romans 13;

Romans 13: [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.*

I don't want to judge anyone, that is God's province alone, I only want to live in peace and be at peace with my neighbors and with those in the world that want peace. For those in the world that want violence and want to kill and rape; there are others like myself that if at all possible and we are there will not let them bring their violence to you. Most Peace Officers and Military men and women would prefer to resolve issues with conversation and TRUTH. If that fails, they are most capable of ending any disagreement with force. Not in a judgement way but simply in a resolution way.

I will say this I am not the image to follow on this issue.

Do Not Judge

([Matthew 7:1-6](#); [Romans 14:1-12](#))

37Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Two major DONT's and one DO for the Christian who is walking in obedience;

Don't Judge

Don't Condemn

Do Forgive

If follow this Godly direction the outcome is;

We won't be judged; we won't be condemned, and we WILL be forgiven.

However, this is all predicated on the Blood of Christ. Say for example a person actually lived a life doing these three things correctly, does that mean they are saved. Absolutely NOT. That would be salvation by WORKS and we know that Salvation is based on FAITH and our Faith is in the Blood that Jesus Spilled on the Cross; and that FAITH is given to us by God through HIS GRACE.

*Ephesians 2: **7**That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. **8**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God: **9**Not of works, lest any man should boast. **10**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before **ordained** that we **should walk in them.*****

38Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Simply put, the abundance of God's Grace, Mercy and Love knows no limits. In return He only asks for a few things; Belief or Faith, Repentance and Obedience.

39And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

Jesus would use parables, and, in those parables, they read like mathematical equations. In other words; can this do this; or does this happen. The same is true here; Jesus puts forth a simple notion; is it a good idea for a blind person to lead another blind person. I have a story to tell you of a blind person being led by a person that could not see and the outcome was a miracle.

It was in 2007 when we had a climbing team on Mt Rainier. Ryan Job was our spokesman for Camp Patriot and had summited Mt. Rainier the year before. Ryan as you all know was totally blind from a sniper bullet striking his weapon which deflected metal shrapnel into both of his eyes causing total blindness. Ryan was injured in Ramadi, Iraq as a Navy SEAL on SEAL Team 3.

On this particular day we had received a radio broadcast from our climb team that one member our "Doc" had altitude sickness and needed to come down. Ryan was feeling off as well and decided to come down as well. Two of the team members County Artist Kenny Thomas and Curtis Fawley our main climbing guide; they

agreed to guide them back to the bottom of the snow fields where we would meet them. The climbers would return to the climb team at Camp Muir and we would take Ryan and Doc back to Paradise, our launching spot.

Ryan with Kenny were the first to arrive at the base of the snow fields. Micah and I decided that Micah's friend and I would take Ryan back down and he would wait for Doc and bring him down.

It was so foggy you could see maybe 10 to 15 feet. There was little to no snow below the snow fields all the way to Paradise so walking would not be hard, just steep. Couple that with Ryan being totally blind it was no easy task but doable.

We started down with me in the lead, Ryan behind me and Micah's friend behind Ryan. Each step had to be called out to Ryan so he would know where and how to take his next step. Ryan was quite adept at following the sound of your voice or tapping walking poles to know the direction, he only needed to know if it was a big step or little step and he used his poles for stability.

We had climbed down for maybe 30 minutes and were on a fairly level path, but it seemed foreign to me having just climbed up the mountain. As I said I could not see a thing due to the fog and

Ryan was blind. So, we had someone who could not see leading a blind person. Now remember this Ryan had only come up this mountain twice, once a year before and this time perhaps a day before. I had just climbed up this mountain and I was thinking to myself this is not the right way. At almost that time Ryan said to me; "Bill, I think we are lost." My response more in humor than anything else was, "How would you know your blind man?" We all laughed and then I acknowledged what Ryan said was true, we were indeed lost. It was so foggy I did not want to continue on an unknown trail for fear of stepping off an unseen cliff so I suggested the two of them sit down and let me back track to see if I could find my mistake in direction.

I had walked back through this dense fog for maybe a hundred yards when all of a sudden there was a man standing on top of a rock in a short-sleeved shirt looking into the fog like he could actually see. Mind you, this is Mt. Rainier at around 8,000 feet and it was cold in the fog. I had three layers on with a heavy outer coat and here this guy was in a short-sleeved shirt. Besides that, he looked of middle east decent.

I asked him if he knew the way to Paradise, which now seems like an odd question. He said in perfect English if I continued on this trail another 50 yards when I came to the large rock turn down hill

and stay on that all the way to the lodge. I thanked him and returned for my blind companion and other companion that could see no better than I could.

It took maybe a minute to get back to them and another minute to get to where I had seen this man and he was gone. It was very quiet up on the mountain so you could hear footsteps a long ways off. We stopped and listened and could hear nothing and could see no sign of the man I had spoken with only 2 minutes before. I never saw him again on the trail or even back at the lodge.

Well we made it safely back, but it was an exercise in what Jesus was talking about the blind leading the blind. Ryan would often remind me of my leadership skills in helping a blind man down Mt. Rainier.

The real blindness that Christ speaks of in this verse is not blindness of the eye but blindness of the Spirit. A person that does not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior can certainly not lead another Spiritually blind person to Him.

40The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

Perfection belongs only to Christ; He is perfect in all ways. The verse here declares that if a person is perfect then he or she will

be “as” or “like” his or her master. Through the process of sanctification, Christ is drawing us to perfection. We have spoken about a term used to describe how God sees us as “Already, but not yet.” When God looks at a repentant believer, He sees His Son Jesus Christ, our intercessor, the One Who stands between us and a Holy God. We are not perfect by a long stretch, but we are on a path of sanctification or “right walking with God”. But when God looks at us, He sees our final condition as being “perfect” already. So that is the meaning of the term; already but not yet. God sees the end and we only see the steps we are engaging in today, on the path to perfection in Christ.

41And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 42Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Jesus uses a physical malady to describe a Spiritual condition. We can't see clearly because we have an obstruction in our own Spiritual eye. The more we learn the more God removes the obstruction enhancing our ability to see the Spiritual Truth that is right before us. Our eye obstructions or “beam” that is in our vision is brought about by all kinds of biases, from religious biases to physical biases. We all have them, they are remnants of our

upbringing, our adolescent and teen-age lives that were filled with rebellion and obstinance. They come from what we allow into our minds and hearts from the world. These beams can become lodged in our Spiritual vision and cause us to stumble and cause those around us to stumble due to our inappropriate actions or speech.

When we are stumbling around in this state of partial blindness, we can hardly find our own way let alone help our brothers and sisters in their Biblical walk. But Jesus has a suggestion.

Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Wake up and smell the coffee you hypocrite; (and I speak to myself more than to those hearing or reading this) Take the time to find that beam in our own eye and pull it out. You might even need the help of a fellow believer to even find the one stuck in our eye and together you can safely pull it out. The goal is clear vision, clear Spiritual Vision. Being able to see the things of Christ and His Father through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Many believers have visual obstructions, so badly embedded that they may not even know they can't clearly see. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal your beams, splinter or chunks of

wood blocking your vision. If a friend asks you for help to remove a particular problem beam from their eye, be honest and gentle but by all means help them.

A Tree and its Fruit

(Matthew 7:15-23; Matthew 12:33-37)

43For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 44For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

Again, Jesus uses a physical thing to describe a Spiritual Truth. When is the last time you saw a nice apple tree with bananas hanging from it or rose thorns on its branches? Each tree or in this case each person gives off fruit. What kind of fruit are you known for; anger, hostility, peace, love, grace, mercy, judgement, discernment? They all exist within our Christian community. If you are a believer that is infested with anger, it can be changed, you just have to be willing to let God do it and obey God's directions.

James 4:7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

It all starts with repentance and surrender, neither of which will make Satan happy. But then again, we are not created to make Satan happy, are we?

45A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

I have admitted that in my past I was known to be crude in speech and deed. It was the first thing Christ convicted me of and removed from me, foul speech. In my case it was actually quite easy, unlike most habits, our speech is controlled by our mind. Even though it can become a habit to curse, with repentance and seeking God in our speech it can come fully under His control.

I used to smoke and have not smoked in over 40 years but every once in a while, I get this intense urge to smoke and I don't have a clue as to why. I believe it to be the old man, rearing up grasping for a foothold to draw me back to that condition. I resist it like God tells us to do in Ephesians;

James 4:7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Like with Jesus and parables here is a formula almost like a mathematical formula.

A+B=C

First part of formula is to A “submit” to God

Step two B; resist the devil

Outcome C; Satan flees.

If we are loyal to God by submitting and in this resistance to evil in our lives, He is faithful to carry out His promise in this. God says this to us;

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

What does God expect from Believers?

Colossians 3: 1If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

5Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

If you are like me the word Concupiscence was not familiar, so here is the definition.

Concupiscence definition;

- *n. A strong desire, especially sexual desire; lust.*
- *n. Improper or illicit desire; sensual appetite; especially, lustful desire or feeling; sensuality; lust.*
- *n. Strong desire in general; appetite.*

Of the five sins listed in Colossians 3:5 four of them can be directly connected to sex sins. I believe sexual impurity is one of Satan's most used and successful sins. I am uncertain if it affects men more than women, but my sense is that is the case. Men, we must guard against our thoughts and behavior when it comes to sex sins. We must "submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee".

God does not want us to sin, He instead wants us to do this:

Colossians 3: [12](#)Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; [13](#)Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. [14](#)And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. [15](#)And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. [16](#)Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. [17](#)And whatsoever ye

do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

The challenge is do we resist, or do we just put up a little fight and then cave into temptation. I have done the caving more than I care to admit. To say “resist” is easy to speak the words but to put real effort into resisting is another matter.

In my opinion it starts way before the attack begins. It starts with steadfastness, resolve, determination, doggedness; to preset an outcome by determining in advance that you will not quit, you will not surrender, you will not waiver. Without predetermining your commitment to not commit a particular sin we fall prey to weakness in our own flesh. Pray about this and consider while you have nothing else to do how you will responded to known attacks that have come at you time and time again. Consider how you have fallen and resolve to not fail again.

Psalms 4:4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

God is telling us to be still and contemplate His Word; it will keep us from sin and manage our minds to keep them on what is important; God and His Truth.

The House on the Rock

[\(Matthew 7:24-27\)](#)

46And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Here is God's question to either people who think they are saved or to those who are saved but walk in the flesh. He wants to know why do you call out my name and proclaim me to be your Lord and Master and then do not the things that He asks?

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Can anyone relate to that question; are there areas of each of our lives where we know we are not walking with Christ? That is what He is talking about. We claim to be Christians but then we curse, complain, denigrate other people, commit sexual sin, lust in our hearts and the list goes on. God wants to know why we are not doing what He says to do? The answer is quite simple and falls into two camps; we are either "idiots" or "liars". If the first, then we still let the flesh call the shots in how we walk out our day to day lives.

If the second is true, then we have lied to ourselves that we are born again; likely we believe we are saved in our minds but not in our hearts. They say the distance from heaven to hell is about 18 inches; the distance from our head to our hearts. We have got to

be honest with ourselves and with God who already knows the truth, we are the ones in trouble.

Study and walk in a way that our minds and our hearts belong to God and are in One Accord with Him and the TRUTH.

47Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

God is going to use a simile to explain the attributes of being an obedient believer. The example God uses is about the sturdiness of a certain type of construction used on building the foundation of a house. And the simile is that if this is how to build a strong foundation for a house it is also the way a man or woman should build the foundation of their life as a believer.

48He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

God often uses the description of storms to depict the impact on the lives of people; there are those who have a strong relationship with Jesus and are secure during the storm and then there are those who have a weak or nonexistent relationship with Jesus and the doom that befalls them for their failure to walk in obedience to Christ.

The Rock in this simile is God and Christ;

Psalms 62:7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

1 Corinthian 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Many places in the Old and New Testament both God and Jesus are referred to as “the Rock”.

The simile used here depicts that the believer digs down through the earth to find the rock to build on, but for believers, they dig in God’s Word to not only find Truth but to find the Rock or the foundation of that Truth; it is always God and Christ Jesus.

49But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

The antithesis of using sound wisdom in search for the truth is the one that in this simile builds his house on sand. Sand that shifts with the winds and the tides. The unstable man will seek wisdom in things that shift and move with no consistency. Things this world holds up as valuable, money, gold, silver,

environmentalism, religions of all kinds, professional athletes, elected people, governments, kings, rulers, anything or anyone that knows no more about the real TRUTH than the person seeking. It is folly to pursue such things, simply follow Christ, search out His Word the Truth, not through religion but through diligent study, humbleness, seeking Love, Mercy and Grace from God.

A nonbeliever starts the same place all believers start; admitting you are a sinner and that you deserve death for your sins. Repenting of your sins and asking Christ into your heart to save you. We all start there and then depending on our obedience determines how much of God's Gospel we learn and fulfill for His Glory.