

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS GOD WANTS

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

The Righteousness God wants

Key Text: Mathew 5:20

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Father in Jesus name, in the mighty name of Jesus, Father we thank you for your word which will be unraveled to us tonight, Father feed us until we want no more in Jesus name. Amen

Introduction

I welcome you all in Jesus Christ name, I hope you all had a lovely day before the Lord of lords and King of kings, I hope you lived a holy life throughout the day, may all your efforts to please the Lord never go in vain in Jesus Christ name. Amen

Study

In this part of the scriptures the Lord Jesus Christ is talking about the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees. He said our righteousness must exceed theirs. We can now ask if the Pharisees have righteousness at all, of course they do. But their righteousness is not enough to qualify them for the kingdom of God. This set of people are the teachers of the law, in fact they uphold the law, yet they do not meet up with God's holy standard, one cannot but imagine if this was not the same law patriarchs of old like David, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Moses, Nehemiah etc followed and their ways please God. Even God called David a man after His own heart. That is to tell us that the law

is good, but the Pharisees made it bad by adding to it and making it burdensome to the people just because of their selfish interest. They attend to the little matters of the law, leaving the weighty matters, yet they claim to be holy, despite that their hearts are not right with God. They loved the public praise and recognition and loved it when people refer to them as rabbi's even at marketplace, they also want to sit on the best seats. Though they are the ones sitting on Moses' seat yet they do not have the Spirit that worked in Moses inside of them. They picked the laws to follow and reshaped the ones that did not suit them. They always present themselves to be who they are not. The same law that condemned the scribes and Pharisees which made their righteousness meaningless was the same one that Jesus said when he said that anyone that breaks it and teaches men to also break it shall not be reckoned with in the kingdom of God. Matthew 5:19 KJV **WHOSOEVER THEREFORE SHALL BREAK ONE OF THESE LEAST COMMANDMENTS, AND SHALL TEACH MEN SO, HE SHALL BE CALLED THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

This is because the following of the law by the Pharisees was not to please God but to make themselves known and justify themselves by the law, whereas by the law shall no man be justified. Justification is gotten only by Faith in Jesus Christ only. That was why Apostle Paul said: **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.** Romans 10:3 KJV **Christ is the righteousness of God.** That is why it further stated that **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.** Romans 10:4 KJV When a man keeps the law without first accepting

Christ and leaning on Him such a man is only going about establishing his own righteousness, when we follow rules and regulations without first receiving light from Christ then we will be legalistic and our worship would only be centered on religion. God wants us to rely on Christ's righteousness. He has given us the Holy Spirit to make us live a life well pleasing to Him than that of the Pharisees. Our lives must not be centered on obeying certain rules or partaking in certain rituals on festivals, it must be led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never lead a man to break God's laws, as some acclaimed believers say. Those who use the grace of God as an excuse to break God's commandments, turning the grace of our Lord God into lasciviousness and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:4 KJV For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The Grace received in Christ Jesus does not in any way give man an access to continually break God's laws, in fact it pushes a man to do more than the law requires. That was why the Lord Jesus Christ said Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: [28] But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. [29] And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. [30] And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. Matthew 5:27-30 KJV In the old testament it is

only when sinful acts have been committed that it is regarded as sin, but now in this era of grace even mere thinking it in the heart is a sin.

And because the Pharisees saw that the law did not capture the intention of the heart aspect but only the carried out act, they think they are free and holy. To them, this means a man can lust after a woman he wants and not be penalized for it. This has contributed to their errors. But during this grace era, a step there is taken further to clarify the matter, saying that not only is the act a sin but also the thought of it (lust). That is why to say that God looks only at the outward and not the inward is wrong and vice versa, as the era we are in, is a period where every of our thoughts, actions and all must conform to that of Christ.

Therefore, what is contained in the heart at most times reflects in the outward, because the Pharisees thought it is only the acts that makes one sin, the devil convinced them that they are not adulterers. That was why a Pharisee justified himself of adultery. Luke 18:11 KJV **The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.** This command not only forbids the act of fornication and adultery but also all sinful appetites, all lusting after the forbidden objects, this is the beginning of the sin of lust conceiving. James 1:15 KJV **Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.** Conceiving a sin in the heart is a bad step towards the sin, and where the lust dwells and is approved. And in most cases lust gets into the heart through the eyes. That was why the Lord said further that if your eyes cause you to sin, remove it so that all of your other members will not be thrown into hell. That is to say anything that causes you to sin should be

quickly taken out of the way. The Lord Jesus Christ was talking about the need for heart purity. Matthew 5:8 KJV **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.** And if looking causes lust, those who dress and deck and expose themselves with designs to be looked at and lusted after (like Jezebel that painted her face and tied her hair and looked out at the window) and felt no less guilty!

Men sins, but the devil tempts to sin; therefore those who tempt others to sin have placed themselves in the position where the devil is using them.

Matthew 5:29-30 KJV

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. [30] And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. Looking at these verses carefully well, we'd see that the Lord makes it clear that the soul is stained when actions are not taken to stop sinning, so He said it is better to go as far as losing the eye and the hand that causes one to sin than to give way to sin and perish eternally in hell. From what Christ said, we could see that He knew that our corrupt nature would always want to commit the adultery of the heart; making it look impossible not to be governed by it. So they say "it is hard teaching, who can hear it?" It is not possible for flesh and blood to stop looking with pleasure upon a beautiful woman and it is not possible to do without lusting after such things. Such reasonings of the mind should be seriously stood against by constantly making the heart believe that it is possible, as God must be pleased in all things. If such thoughts are allowed, one would not

overcome sin. Therefore the terror of the Lord is needed to kick against such reasoning. It must be intentional. Some time ago a brother told me that it is not possible not to sin perpetually because it is our weakness and we will go to heaven like that. Many are like him who believe that living holy lives is not possible, so they keep arguing about sin to justify themselves because they do not want to leave the pleasures of the flesh, whereas it is a severe operation that is required as prescribed by the Lord Jesus Christ for preventing those fleshly lust. If thy eye offend thee or cause thee to offend by wanton glances or wanton gazing, upon forbidden objects like Achan who could not control his gaze on the accursed objects in Jericho. If thy hand offend thee, or cause thee to offend and if it were indeed impossible to control them, stopping them from practicing wickedness and staining your soul, like Gehazi who went after Naaman to get the rewards of unrighteousness. Then get rid of them! But the truth is that all glory belongs to God because one can overcome through His grace.

Relying on the righteousness of Christ by trusting Him to help one overcome is the key and also creating a great level of hatred for sin because what you do not create hatred for would keep on enticing you. Therefore we must resolve to bring our bodies under subjection to live a life of mortification and self-denial to keep constant watch over our own hearts and to suppress the first rising of lust and corruption to avoid the locations of sin, to resist the beginning of it and to decline the company of those who would be a snare to us. Just as the popular saying that prevention is better than cure. It is good to look for ways to constrict ourselves even from the use of lawful things that tempts us to sin. When we find out that these things tempts us to sin then we ought to seek God for His grace and depend upon that grace daily to walk in the Spirit so that we will not fulfill the lust of

the flesh and by this, we would be removing the eyes and cutting the hand that causes us to sin as we would constantly be submitted to His will. Then destruction begins to happen to the old man as we begin to live out the kind of righteousness God wants.

This is where we will end this topic, if there are questions please ask, and if none, may the Lord Jesus Christ help us to live in genuine Holiness and Righteousness. Amen.

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