

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Of all the teachings of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, none is more contrary to the natural bent of the human mind than when HE told HIS disciples to love their enemies and pray for them that despitefully use them. His words in Matthew 5:39, *“But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also”* are seldom quoted or taught without some explanation which tries to soften its grating sound to this old sinful flesh. Surely HE didn’t mean exactly and simply what HE said; did HE? I mean don’t I have every right to haul off and hit someone back if they hit me? The truth is I may have that right in the flesh, yet the LORD said if we are to be like HIM then we must not act like those who are not HIS children.

The LORD has laid down some very helpful instructions for our relationships with one another that not only insure peace and tranquility for those who heed them but set forth an example that HE often uses in bringing men to repentance. Even the hard heart of King Saul was made tender by the self-denying actions of David. We cannot prevent the misconduct of others towards us, but we must strive to prevent misconduct toward others (even if we feel they deserve our wrath). What a revolutionary concept this is. Think of the harsh words that could be avoided. Think of the families and churches that would not be divided. Think of how the divorce rate would be affected. Think how the SPIRIT of CHRIST would be manifested in the earth.

I am not so naive as to think that there shall be any great clamor to follow these simple concepts by the multitudes. The LORD never charged HIS disciples with changing the world but he did demand that they change their behavior towards others. *“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.”* HE has not only given the commandment but HE has set the example. Our love to others is to be characterized by :

1. Being willing to lay our best interest aside. *“Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?”* HE laid aside HIS glory for our sake, taking on HIMSELF the likeness of sinful flesh. As the song writer said *“HE had no tears for HIS own grief, but sweat drops of blood for mine.”* If HE cared not for HIS own comfort how can we set limits upon the lengths to which we go in demonstrating love, what conditions can we rightly set.

2. Giving without the thought of receiving. *“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again.”* Too often, we give love expecting that we should receive it in return. When that doesn’t happen, we grow bitter and begin to regret that we gave it in the first place. Love which is not given cheerfully with no thought of return is no love at all. We are not called to be mutual admirers of one another, rather we are to be givers of love. Husbands are to love their wives whether or not their wives love them, for this is the example of CHRIST’s love for the church.

3. Loving the unworthy. *“But GOD commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST died for us.”* If we wait to show love until we find someone worthy of it we likely will never love anyone at all. HE loved us in spite of our hatred of HIM and HIS way.

4. Loving continually and continuously. *“Then came Peter to him, and said, LORD, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? JESUS saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.”* We must not be looking for an excuse to lessen our love for our brethren.

So if we are going to exhibit CHRIST’s love in the earth, we cannot wait for others to act like we think they should act, think like we think they should think, or become loveable. We must recognize that we can only modify our behavior and not theirs. This daunting and frustrating task cannot be accomplished in the power of the flesh, but HE gives “grace to help in time of need” for those who come to the throne of grace. Paul said *“for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ----- I can do all things through CHRIST which strengtheneth me.”* May our prayer be for grace to love others as HE loved us. May we be reminded constantly of the example of our LORD; *“Who, when HE was reviled, reviled not again; when HE suffered, HE threatened not; but committed himself to HIM that judgeth righteously: “ “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

Thy free grace alone,”#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**