

From YOM KIPPUR to The Golden Rule

I. MATTHEW 7:1-12 – Whatever You Would Have Others Do to You

¹ Judge not, that ye be not judged.

² For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

³ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

⁴ Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

⁵ ...first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

¹² Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is The Law and the prophets.

II. Of Planks and Splinters

I recently encountered a family that was wracked by the divide of bitterness and unforgiveness, the lack of Charity for one another adding immensely to their burdens as they grappled with the death of a loved one in the hospital. The veils of coldness impeded my ability to comfort them and hindered the fuller working of GOD's Grace for them in their time of need.

PM had remarried many decades ago and had several adult children. His second wife sat at length at his side as death approached, heartbroken at the pending loss of her husband. Magnifying the couple's pain were the choices of their adult children, who remained down the hall, refusing to come to the bedside while their stepmother was present with their father.

Ministering to all of them, I was obliged to negotiate time schedules to accommodate the presence of the one and the absence of the others, and then visa versa, in alternating patterns of visitation to PM's bedside. Though all were Christian, the adult children refused to receive a portion of the healing hand of CHRIST, holding on to the familiar darkness they had nurtured for so long.

And then there is the same incredible phenomenon that seems to break out at times like leprosy in The Camp among GOD's servants themselves, the very ones called in The Name of The LORD to be a blessing to others especially in time of need. Even the most profitable servant of The Lord at times can be found intently picking out the splinters in the eyes of his brethren, while being blind to the motes in his own eyes.

III. Every Day a Humble Day of Atonement

In Judaism, “YOM KIPPUR”¹ is known as “The Day of Atonement,” when men are called to forgive their fellow man as The King of The Universe forgives us.² The Sin of unforgiveness can blot out The Forgiveness of GOD always available to us, and His call to us as GOD’s people to have Charitable forgiveness towards one another.

On YOM KIPPUR, The High Priest entered The Holy of Holies before The Ark of The Covenant on That Day in The Tent of Meeting - or later in The Temple - having sacrificed the bulls required, sprinkling the blood upon The Mercy Seat before GOD’s Presence. He then brought two goats, one slain in offering to The LORD and its blood applied, the other carrying away the guilt of GOD’s people into the wilderness.³

Who is JESUS CHRIST for Christians, if not The Everlasting Day of Atonement Sacrificed on our behalf?⁴ And What is offered up every Sunday in The Church, if not thanksgiving for The One Who carries away the sins of the world,^{5 6} The One Whose sacrifice removes The Judgement of The Holy One upon us for our sins by paying The Price which we ourselves can not pay?⁷ As GOD forgives us, He calls us to forgive also one another, removing the veil of unforgiveness and restoring communion between GOD and man, and man and man.

¹ 1, Strong’s Lexicon, 722 KAPHAR. Meaning: 1) to cover over, purge, make an atonement, make reconciliation, pacify, propitiate, atone for sin and persons...

² 2, KJV, LEVITICUS 23:27-28.

³ 3, Fausset’s Bible Dictionary, 399 Atonement, Day of. 330.01-339.02.

⁴ 4, NAB Notes, I JOHN 2:1, “...Forgiveness of sin is assured through CHRIST’s intercession and expiation or “offering;” The Death of CHRIST effected the removal of sin.”

⁵ 2, KJV, JOHN 1:29. John The Baptist when he beheld JESUS CHRIST coming to him for Baptism.

⁶ 2, KJV, I JOHN 2:2. JESUS CHRIST is “...The Propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

⁷ 1, Strong’s Lexicon, 2434 Hilasmos [Greek]. An appeasing, propitiating; the means of appeasing, a propitiation.” The means of expiation of sin guilt, as I I JOHN 2:2.

IV. From YOM KIPPUR to The Golden Rule

JESUS does not give "...a prohibition against recognizing the faults or errors of others, ...but against passing judgment in a spirit of arrogance, forgetful of one's own faults" and errors, usurping The Throne of GOD to weigh the worth of another man's soul.⁸ May we take a sober lesson in Atonement, with humble hearts daily in "YOM KIPPUR," forgiving others and doing to others as we would have them do to us. For do we not pray exactly this, as JESUS teaches us, in "The Our Father?"⁹

May we then go forth in thanksgiving and joy each day to be a blessing to others in our Ministry and to one another, that He may use us to hasten His Kingdom Come on earth each day more closely as it is in Heaven! Thus This most Golden Rule, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is The Law and the prophets."¹⁰

⁸ 4, NAB Notes, MATTHEW 7:1.

⁹ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 6:9-13; LUKE 11:2-4.

¹⁰ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 7:12.

V. A Prayer from MATTHEW 6:9-13

Let us come together in prayer,
each according to our own Tradition:

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Let us pray in The Words of JESUS,
asking our Heavenly Father
to forgive us our trespasses
even as we forgive others
who trespass against us:

9 ...Our Father, ...[Who] art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.

10 Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in Heaven.

11 Give us this day
our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is The Kingdom,
and The Power, and The Glory, for ever... ¹¹

And let GOD's people say together,
So be it, AMEN!

¹¹ 2, KJV, MATTHEW 6:9-13.

VI. References

1. Strong's Lexicon. Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
2. "King James Version [Bible]." Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
3. "Fausset's Bible Dictionary." Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
4. "New American Bible Notes." Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.