



The Book of Matthew Lesson 12 2Q 2016 Jesus' Last Days

I received this email yesterday from Mirra Huber, who spent more than a year editing The Remedy so we could get it printed:

I know that The Remedy copies will not gather dust when they arrive here.

My quoting at church from The Remedy over the last 12 months has raised quite a bit of interest, and people are even more curious when they find out that it is the NEWEST paraphrase presenting the Healing Model (and that I had something to do with its production).

The more I read The Remedy the more the beauty of God unfolds in my mind, and together with the recordings that I listen to all the time as I go about my duties every day, they are demolishing Satan's strongholds of the imperial teachings so deeply engraved over the decades...

My mind likes logic to be in charge, and that's why, since childhood, many of our church teachings simply did not sit with me, and before I learned of the Design Law, many of EGW statements didn't make any sense either, even though I never rejected her writings.

Do you know how hard it is to get rid of those old ideas? And just as hard it is to get the new ones established in my mind, but I'm encouraged as I listen to the weekly SS and realize that some of your regular students are also struggling a bit, like myself! :-)

*I'm going through the archives and listen to the older SS recordings, which are all a great source of enlightenment to me. Thank you so much for your patient teaching sessions, and to the crew for making the recordings available.
May you all be blessed forever! :-)*

SABBATH

Read first paragraph, "In this lesson..."

- Was it the most crucial moment for the history of earth only?
- What made this the most crucial moment in the history of creation?
- What was about to happen?
- Was Christ about to die? Why?
- Was Christ in conflict? With whom and with what?
- Was Christ suffering, from where did His suffering originate?



- What was God's role in this? Was God the source of inflicted pain and suffering upon His Son?

Was Jesus battling His Father to save humankind? Against what and whom was Jesus battling?

If Jesus was not battling against His Father, was the Father using divine power to inflict any pain, suffering, punishment, or death upon Jesus?

What do most Christians teach about this? Here are some samples:

Roman Catholic Theology:

What did Christ's suffering and death actually accomplish that allowed the Father to provide the human race with salvation? ... Scripture teaches only that Christ became a 'propitiation,' a 'sin offering,' or a 'sacrifice' for sins...Essentially, this means that Christ, because he was guiltless, sin-free and in favor with God, *could offer himself up as a means of persuading God to relent of his angry wrath* against the sins of mankind... Anger against sin shows the personal side of God, for sin is a personal offense against him. *God is personally offended by sin and thus he needs to be personally appeased* in order to offer a personal forgiveness. In keeping with his divine principles, his personal nature, and the magnitude of the sins of man, *the only thing that God would allow to appease him was the suffering and death of the sinless representative of mankind, namely, Christ.*¹ (emphasis mine)

Evangelical Theology:

We affirm that the atonement of Christ by which, in his obedience, he offered a perfect sacrifice, *propitiating the Father by paying for our sins* and satisfying divine justice on our behalf according to God's eternal plan, is an essential element of the Gospel.² (emphasis mine)

Seventh-day Adventist Theology:

For a loving God to maintain His justice and righteousness, the atoning death of Jesus Christ became 'a moral and legal necessity.' God's 'justice requires that sin be carried to judgment. *God must therefore execute judgment* on sin and thus on the sinner. *In this execution the Son of God took our place, the sinner's place, according to God's will.*³ (emphasis mine)

¹ Robert Sungenis, Founder and President of Catholic Apologetics International Publishing: Not By Faith Alone (Santa Barbara: Queenship, 1997), pp. 107-108.

² "A Call to Evangelical Unity," Christianity Today, June 14, 1999.

³ *Seventh-day Adventist Believe* 27, p. 111



Why did *God the Father* choose a cross to be the instrument of death? Why did He not choose to have Christ instantly beheaded or quickly run through with a spear or sword? *Was God unjust in executing judgment on Christ with a cross* when He could have done it by beheading, a noose, a sword, a gas chamber, a bolt of lightning, or a lethal injection?⁴ (emphasis mine)

One of the fundamental problems of the Moral Influence Theory is that it rejects the substitutionary nature of Christ's death. The idea that *God had to kill the innocent* instead of the guilty in order to save us is considered a violation of justice.⁵ (emphasis mine)

Did God kill Jesus on the Cross?

Those theologians who have come out against our ministry teach that God was required by justice sake to kill Jesus in our place. They teach God is the source of pain, suffering and death—why do they teach this? Because they have the false law concept, thinking falsely that God's law functions like human laws.

Is this what Ellen White taught?

Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.** Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. **The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.** {DA 761.2}

Who did EGW teach was the source of Christ's death? Satan—who do you believe killed Jesus at the Cross, God or evil men operating under the influence of Satan?

Why then do so many Christians today teach that God killed Jesus at the Cross?

It is because the entire world is intoxicated on the wine—the lies about God's law—that comes from the beast.

In Bible symbolism what do beasts represent? Earthly governments, and upon what law do earthly governments operate? Imposed law, which are coercively enforced.

⁴ Whidden, W., *Ministry Magazine*, February 2007. <http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/2007/February/sinners-in-the-hands-of-god.html>

⁵ Rodriguez, A., *Adventist World Review*, December 2007; p. 40.



God's laws are design laws and are the protocols upon which reality operates.

So, when the church acts coercively and teaches God is the source of inflicted torment and pain and death and call it justice, they are acting beastly and are drunk on the wine of the beast.

Continuing on from the EGW quote above where she said Satan was a murderer, the very next paragraphs she explains:

Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. **The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed.** [what principles? The principles of love, truth and freedom, versus selfishness, lies, and coercion] And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. **He must choose whom he will serve.** [why must he choose? Because it is the only way for God to heal a person and retain that person's individuality. It is the only way that love and truth work. But notice in the next paragraph how she exposes the underlying deception to which we have been duped into believing] {DA 761.3}

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan;** [who is the source of this idea that sin must be punished by God? Satan, why? Because Satan declares that God is no different that created beings, only more powerful, that God's laws are merely rules He enforces with threats, that God is not truly the Creator and Sustainer of reality] and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. [This lie is the lie that our own professors and pastors and conference officials are teaching that justice requires God to use His power to inflict punishment for sin. And thus Jesus as our substitute was punished by God.] When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. [Is this true? No!] {DA 761.4}

But even as a sinner, man was in a different position from that of Satan. Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God's glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God's love.

Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. **This choice was final.** [Why was this choice final? Was it because God was unwilling to forgive? Was it because justice require Satan be punished? Was Jesus unwilling to pay the legal penalty for Lucifer and the other angels who rebelled? Why? What is sin? Deviation from God's design, which is the law of love. Satan came to believe God to be



untrustworthy after having seen a full revelation of God's character of love. What unrevealed truth about God's character was left to dispel his false belief? Satan rejected the evidence what more was there God could do? (story of pastor) **There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know.** [So how was man in a different position than Satan? What was available for man that *could* result in the salvation of man that was of no benefit to Satan? Was it that Christ became willing to pay a legal penalty for humans but not angels? No! A legal debt was never the problem for Satan or man, then what? Man didn't know the fullness of God's character and thus unrevealed truth remained that had not been rejected that could win humanity back to trust and love! This is all design law, how reality works, how minds and hearts actually work.] **For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God.** {DA 761.5}

Through Jesus, God's mercy was manifested to men; **but mercy does not set aside justice.** [what is justice? Doing what is right, when we are merciful are we setting aside what is right? No, mercy is doing what is right, mercy puts things right, which is also known as justification. When you align the margins on your Word document you are justifying it—making it right, setting it right. When a bone is dislocated and it is set right, it is being justified. Is it merciful to set a bone right? What determines what is right? The law, what is God's law? The law of love, which is design law, thus it is always right to seek to heal and restore, which is always merciful!] The law reveals the attributes of God's character, **and not a jot or tittle of it could be changed to meet man in his fallen condition.** [Why not? Because the law is the basis upon which life is constructed, it would be like saying to someone drowning, the law of respiration cannot be changed to meet you underwater. To change God's law would mean to destroy the universe because God's laws are the laws of physics, gravity, health, etc. Life as we know it could not exist if God's law changed.] **God did not change His law, but He sacrificed Himself, in Christ, for man's redemption. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself."** [Which means what? If the law is the basis of life, and the law cannot be changed, then what would need to be changed in order to save humanity? The condition of mankind, and this is what Jesus did for us—He fixed humankind by restoring God's law of love back into the species.] 2 Corinthians 5:19. {DA 762.1}

The law requires righteousness,—a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. [What does the law require? A perfect life—why? For the same reason the law of respiration require we breathe, it is how life is constructed. We could not fix what was broken in us, so Christ became human to do this for us! And notice He developed a perfect character, not had perfect behavior—meaning He may have spilled soup as a child, His robe may have gotten caught on a branch and He tripped and fell down, if He learned to play a musical instrument He would likely have hit some wrong notes, but He never violated God's law of love. He never had made a selfish choice in heart, mind or deed.] His life stands for the



life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. **More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty.** [After Christ came and developed a perfect character, what does He do with this achievement? He imbues into us His character and rebuilds us into perfect harmony with Him and His Father and Their design of love!] **Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."** [what is justice is this view? Healing and restoring sinners back to God's design!] Romans 3:26. {DA 762.2}

This is the gospel, this is the truth about God as revealed by Christ. This is what was pending that weekend 2000 years ago. This is what was before Jesus. Jesus understood His mission and this is why He told Peter to put away His sword, that He had to complete His mission.

So, in summary what did Christ achieve?

- Revelation of the truth about God, His character and methods of love, truth and freedom
- Exposed Satan as a liar and fraud and thus disarmed Satan destroying Satan's power
- Destroyed the infection of selfishness, (carnal nature) and restored God's law of love back into the human species by choosing to love and not be overcome by the temptation to save self
- Destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light, by restoring the law of love back into the species human, because God's law of love is the basis of life.
- Secured the universe unfallen in their loyalty to God
- Established God's law, methods, government as trustworthy and reliable in the minds of all the saved and unfallen throughout the universe above
- Exposed that religious people who keep all the right rituals and practices that God Himself gave, when they accepted the false law construct become God's enemies.

SUNDAY

The last sentence of the first paragraph states, "Looking back, with the entirety of the Bible at our disposal, and especially Paul's powerful explanations of the atoning death of Jesus, we know so much more about what Jesus was going to do for us than His followers did at the time of this story."

It is true we should know so much more, but is the predominate view of what Christ achieved at the Christ a view that knows more or less than the Apostles understood?

If the Cross is the most important event in all universal history, which it was, what then do you think Satan would make his number one event in history to distort? Would it not be the meaning of what Christ accomplished at the Cross?



And has Satan succeeded? To a great degree yes, by misconstruing all of the facts through the imposed law lens the entire meaning of it all changes so that Christians are to a great degree actually teaching Satan's lies, perpetuating the wine of Babylon, specifically:

Theories of Atonement vs Levels of Moral Development

1. **Satisfaction theory:** God is offended and His honor must be satisfied -- **level one** thinking
2. **Ransom theory:** Satan has a legitimate claim to earth and the lives of humans, so Jesus makes a deal with Satan to exchange His life for mankind -- **level two** thinking
3. **Governmental theory:** God must punish sin in order to show that His government doesn't play favorites -- **level three** thinking
4. **Penal Substitution theory:** The law itself required sin be punished and God enforces the law by inflicting upon His Son the death penalty -- **level four** thinking
5. **Moral Influence theory:** God loved us too much to let us go and Christ died to reach us with His love -- **level five** thinking
6. **Recapitulation and Christus Victor theories:** Life as God built it could not exist outside His design/law, Christ died to restore the species human back to harmony with God's design -- **level six** thinking
7. Both level five and six are true: God's character of love has been misrepresented, His methods of truth, love, and freedom have not been fully understood, so God had a larger purpose than just the salvation of humankind, He was also solidifying the unfalling beings in loyalty to His design methods and character of love. This is the **Healing Substitution reality** -- **level seven** thinking

The first four levels are all based on the false law view and result in ideas that incite fear like:

- Sin must be punished
- God in order to be just must inflict pain, suffering and death
- God is the source of suffering and death
- God killed Jesus as the Cross
- God is the one we need protection from
- Sin isn't the problem, the problem is what God will do to you if you sin

Another thought—a very sad observation: as people grow in moral development they can generally only comprehend one moral level above the one in which they are operating. This is why critics of what we teach consistently accuse us of teaching the Moral Influence Theory. They do this because they are operating at level four and can only comprehend one level above where they are operating. And



they don't grow to a higher level because they critique, find fault and reject level five, Moral Influence Theory, as we read in *The Review* quote above. And since they reject that level of understanding they are unable to grow further. They are like Lucifer, there is nothing more that can be done for them—until they accept truth, until they open their minds, until they stop rejecting reality, they not only stay stuck at level four, they will grow harder in heart and begin to use the methods of force and coercion—bestly.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “Jesus was pointing them...” Jesus was pointing them past symbols and metaphor toward reality, what is the reality to which the bread and wine symbolize?

Some think the bread symbolizes Jesus literal human flesh and the wine symbolizes the red corpuscles of Jesus human body:

In 831 Frankish abbot Paschasius Radbertus released a paper entitled *De corpore et sanguine Christi* (Concerning Christ's Body and Blood). According to former Secretary of Education and historian William Bennett:

“Radbertus concluded that since God is truth and cannot lie, Jesus' declaration that the elements of the bread and wine used in communion were his body and blood and must be taken literally. For Radbertus, the consecration of the elements mystically transformed the bread and wine into the physical body and blood of Jesus Christ.”⁶

And from this paper came the Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation, that when a person takes the communion wafer and swallows it, it mystically, magically, transforms into the actual flesh of Jesus—cannibalism.

For over 800 years, no one, Apostle, prophet, pope or peasant believed such an idea, but in the mid 9th century this idea came forward, based on what? On the inability of people to see past metaphor to reality, from people taking symbolic language literally.

To be literalistic in thinking doesn't mean people are uneducated, the highest educated people in Christ's day (Sanhedrin) did the same thing when Jesus said in John 6 “unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood...”

Did Jesus, in either place, John 6 or upper room mean His actual human flesh and blood or did He mean something else?

⁶ Bennett, William, *Tried By Fire: The Story of Christianity's First Thousand Years*. Nelson Books, Nashville, TN, 2016.



The bread/flesh represent the living Word, the truth, and just as the molecules of food become the building blocks of our physical body, the concepts, ideas, truth of God become the building blocks of our beliefs, perspectives and constructs that form our worldview, who we trust and ultimately shape our characters. And the blood represents the life or character of love that Jesus developed, in perfect harmony with the law of love. And just as the blood circulates the nutrients throughout the body, so too those who assimilate the truth begin to apply it to their lives and circulate it throughout their sphere of influence in how they live and what they teach.

Thus to partake of the flesh and blood means to internalize the truth about God that Jesus revealed which dispels lies and wins us to trust. In trust we open our hearts to God and the Spirit comes and reproduces in us the character of Christ and we become living agents giving away the love and truth of God.

So what is the new covenant? It is the covenant of recreation, renewal, rebirth, regeneration—the agreement, partnership, relationship between sinners and God in which we come into a trust relationship with God and experience healing of heart and mind. This is a clear distinction to the covenant of law, of legal pardon, of legal penalty paid.

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph, “It wasn’t physical death...” How do you understand what is being said here? What law lens do you see it through?

What does it mean to bear the wrath of God? What is the wrath of God? What did God do to Jesus at Gethsemane and the Cross?

What does God do to the wicked in the end?

Did God use power to torture and kill Jesus? Does God use power to torture and kill the wicked in the end?

Focus on God’s actions first—God does the same in both places—God surrendered Jesus to experience what Jesus chose—and what did Jesus choose? Jesus chose to be our Remedy, to take our condition upon Himself and fix it—to go through the Cross and God surrendered Him to it. God restrained His power and did not intervene to hold at bay what would come upon Jesus from His choice to be our Savior. But God did not use power to inflict this upon Jesus.

Likewise, in the end, God stops restraining and holding at bay what happens to those in rebellion against Him. God surrenders the wicked to their choice and lets them experience what they have chosen, but God does not use His power to inflict this upon them and cause them to suffer. The suffering originates in unremedied sin in their minds and hearts and their death is “voluntary with



themselves” as they beg for the mountains to fall on them and hide them. They do not want life in a universe of love and truth. They don’t want to live in God’s unveiled presence.

What does it mean that violations of God’s holy law was so serious that it demanded the death of the perpetrator? What if someone said, jumping off the Empire State Building is so serious that the law of gravity demands the death of those who jump? Would that be the most helpful way to state it?

The next paragraph is a quotation from the book *The Desire of Ages* and there is a powerful insight, “With the issues of the conflict before Him, Christ’s soul was filled with dread of separation from God. Satan told Him that if He became the surety for the sinful world, the separation would be eternal.”

Who came up with the idea that Jesus’ separation from His Father would be eternal? Satan, this is a temptation, it is not reality.

Prior to Christ’s death what did Jesus Himself tell His disciples on more than one occasion? That He would die and rise again on the third day. Why did Christ tell His disciples this? Was Christ having wishful thinking? Was He merely acting the part of a good football coach telling the team a vision of what is possible, but with no real certainty of what would happen? Or did Christ know with certainty what would result from His actions, from His choices?

What is the basis of life? In other words, what is the source of life? God is the source of life, and how did God construct life to operate? Upon the law of love, i.e. in harmony with Himself. So what can one accurately predict will happen when God’s law of love is perfectly restored in a being? Life! So, Jesus could predict, knowing the basis of life, knowing what He was choosing, that He would die and He would rise again.

Both the redeemed and the unfallen beings will find in the cross of Christ their science and their song. It will be seen that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the **glory of self-sacrificing love**. In the light from Calvary it will be seen that **the law of self-renouncing love is the law of life for earth and heaven**; that the love which "seeketh not her own" **has its source in the heart of God**; and that in the meek and lowly One is manifested the character of Him who dwelleth in the light which no man can approach unto. {DA 19.2}

But turning from all lesser representations, we behold God in Jesus. Looking unto Jesus we see that it is the **glory of our God to give**. "I do nothing of Myself," said Christ; "the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father." "I seek not Mine own glory," but the glory of Him that sent Me. John 8:28; 6:57; 8:50; 7:18. **In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe**. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of



love, to the great Source of all. **And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.** {DA 21.2}

We have given many examples, remember respiration. So understanding this, if a person has a plastic bag over their head and are dying, and you remove the bag and put them in harmony with the law, what happens? They revive, “the law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.” Ps 19:7

Jesus understood why humanity was “dead in trespass and sin” because the species was infected with selfishness, and thus out of harmony with God’s design and in a terminal condition. Christ could say that He would die, and rise again because He understood that He would be destroying the infection of selfishness and restoring the law of life back into the humanity that He assumed.

So, Satan’s temptation was a lie, the separation would not be eternal. But, this lie has come through to us today when people teach Christ died the second death, which is the eternal death, the death from which there is no resurrection. Think about it, did Jesus rise again? Then His death wasn’t the second death.

Some people immediately object and then ask, “are you saying Jesus merely died the first death like all other human beings?” Absolutely not. Jesus didn’t die the first death—Jesus died a unique death. Jesus died a death which was necessary to destroy the infection of selfishness and perfectly restored love into the species human. This is quite different from the first death and diametrically opposite of the second death. Jesus died when love overcame selfishness, however, the wicked in the end die overcome by selfishness.

WEDNESDAY

The lesson is about Judas, read third paragraph, “In Matthew...” Was the primary issue for Judas about making more money? Or was the money a nice side bonus? The primary issue was about power and Judas believed Satan’s version of how power works and Satan’s version of how God uses power. Judas saw Jesus as powerful but not sophisticated in the use of power so Judas thought Jesus needed help in taking the throne and ruling with coercion. Judas thought that cornering Jesus would result in Jesus acting to save Himself and thus taking power and the throne. It wasn’t about money, it was about power.

THURSDAY

Read first paragraph, “Jesus knew beforehand...” Did Jesus know beforehand? Yes, I believe He did—does that mean Judas didn’t have a choice, or did Judas still make his own freewill choices?

What is the implication?

FRIDAY Read and discuss question 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website: http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

***The Remedy* – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase**—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Remedy—Is Now Available in Print Version in the US. We have printed 10,000 to give away and will reassess demand for them after those are gone. We are shipping a small number to Canada and Australia. **How to get copies:** In the US email orders@comeandreason.com with a valid US postal address; In Canada email canada@comeandreason.com and in Australia/New Zealand email Australia@comeandreason.com and request the number you want and we will ship them to you. If you are giving them away please give them only to people who want them. In other words, don’t put one at every seat in the church, or place setting at a potluck, or car in a parking lot. Such distribution methods result in vast numbers being thrown away. Let people know they are free and allow them to take one if they want too works best.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a HARD COVER book at Amazon as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

Thursday, June 9 at 1:30 PM Eastern Time Dr. Jennings will appear on the *Lifestyle Magazine* show, “Healing The Mind” that he recorded previously. It is scheduled to air on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Keep in mind that TBN can preempt the show at their discretion.

October 14-16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

October 19, 20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

October 21, 22: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Cape Town, South Africa