



## 2019 Q3 The Least of These: Lesson 12 To Love Mercy

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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Read first paragraph, “As we have seen...” No doubt God is concerned for the poor and oppressed, and we also should be concerned for them.

But I have some questions—do we separate people into the poor and oppressed versus the rich and oppressor?

Does God not have concern for the abuser, the exploiter, the powerful person who takes advantage of the weak? What about King David in the case of Bathsheba and Uriah—did God have concern for Uriah and Bathsheba? Did God also have concern for David?

From God’s perspective, in that situation who was the one in the greatest need? Who was the one that needed God’s grace the most—the one in most jeopardy of losing salvation?

When we see evil and sin being perpetrated in the world today—do we not only have concern for the victims, but do we recognize the great need the perpetrators have of God’s saving grace? Do we see the perpetrators as people to hate, as enemies we should seek to punish, to harm, to war against, or do we see them as people sick in heart that need God’s remedy of love, truth, grace? Do we see them as people that need our love?

Jesus said:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:43-48 NIV84)

What do you hear in Jesus’ words?

Do you hear any law being described here? What kind of law is being described in the sun and rain? Design law, it isn’t about imposed rules, but about how God built reality to operate.

If you want to be part of God’s family, i.e. a child of your Father in heaven, then you have to operate in harmony with Him. You have to live in harmony with the design laws upon which God built reality



to operate. Which means we have to love others; and when we trust God with the outcomes, with our lives, and we love even our enemies, then we are perfect.

Notice, Bible perfection isn't about a behavioral list of rules, it is about maturity of character, about living in harmony with God's methods of love.

thoughts?

How can we experience this? Think design laws—

- law of worship—by beholding we are changed—we cannot avoid becoming like the God we admire, worship, spend time with.
- law of truth—truth will set you free, displace lies, restore to trust and shape character
- law of love—the more you give the more you receive
- law of exertion—if you want something to get stronger you must exercise it, including exercising your trust in God

If we spend time in daily prayer, meditation of God's character, methods, principles as revealed in Scripture and nature, embracing and applying the truths as God reveals them to us we grow in Godliness, we are transformed.

Is this a salvation by works method? Absolutely not! Salvation is totally of God's origination in Christ. But we are partaking of Christ, which is our work, thus we work out our salvation with awe and trembling. In other words, Christ procured the remedy to sin, but we must actively participate by our own choices to partake and apply what Christ achieved to our own lives—i.e. the work of faith or trust.

## **SUNDAY**

Read first paragraph, “As was made clear in the teachings of Jesus...” thoughts?

How would you describe God's kingdom?

What would you say are the defining differences between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world?

- Law of love, truth and freedom (design law) versus law of sin and death—the fear driven survival of the fittest motive which leads to selfishness, deceit and coercion—thus leading to imposed laws.

Which kingdom does would these statements fall into:

- The end justifies the means



- Might is right
- The strong survive
- Do unto others before they do unto you
- Fake it til you make it
- The law requires punishment—therefore sin must be punished
- Justice requires God inflict punishment upon sinners
- The Sabbath is an arbitrary test of obedience

If you wanted to get people who are living for God's kingdom to leave God's kingdom and start living for Satan's kingdom what might you do? How might you get people to do that?

- Straight temptations of drugs, alcohol, sex, gambling etc.(David), financial pressures leading to stealing, embezzling etc.
- Disillusionment—pain, suffering, loss, discouragement—consider Elijah was tempted
- What about promoting a Godly goal by practicing Satan's methods? Consider the goal of bringing people to accept Jesus as Savior—a Godly goal—but what about torturing, imprisoning or killing those who don't?

Do you think the majority of people who have abused others in the name of their god, thought they were doing wrong?

Why would they think it is right to punish people who break some religious rule or dogma? Because of the lie that people believe that God's law functions like human law, or God's kingdom functions like human kingdoms and justice requires punishment.

Where is the line drawn in societies between establishing laws to protect the innocent and not violating the freedoms of people?

Read last paragraph, "Those who have power..." What do you hear? Did EGW advocate killing slave-owners in order to free slaves? Or did she advocate not obeying laws that discriminate and violated God's law? Do you see how Satan could take this principle of love—which would oppose slavery and would refuse to obey laws to return slaves that have escaped, and try to get good people to seek to kill others in order to obtain one's goals?

This is all about boundaries, methods, principles—one can have the right motive, but use the wrong methods and the result will not be health, but destruction.

For instance, the doctors who treated George Washington's pneumonia had the right motives, they wanted to save his life. But they had the wrong method, bleeding and leaching, and even though they were trying to save, they actually caused more harm. Because one cannot promote health or healing by violating God's design laws.



So Paul writes:

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. (1Corinthians 3:10-15)

What do you understand this means?

Do you hear design law being described—reality—how things actually work?

Do you hear the difference between right motive, the builder who with good intentions and heart to help builds, but if they build with the wrong materials then what they are doing, even with good intention, doesn't last because it isn't built in harmony with how reality works?

This is a warning to pastors, teachers, parents, in how we teach and influence others, how we help to assist people in building their characters. We may have good motives, seek to help, but if we use wrong methods then we may very well suffer great loss as we see those who we influenced lost because they never internalized the truth, never grew in harmony with God's design for life.

For instance, raising children in strict indoctrination to memorize certain rules, doctrines and live by a code of behavioral conduct, all motivated by love for God and your children, longing for their salvation, but which results in the child becoming a person who lives in fear, doesn't know how to think for themselves, cannot discern truth from lies, and thus lives a zealous religious life but never experiences a renewed heart.

Or parents who in love become enablers to their children's addictions—always bailing them out, rescuing them from consequences—because they love their children, but the children never learn from their bad choices.

From *The Remedy*:

<sup>10</sup>By using the wisdom, insight and understanding that God has given me regarding his plan for rebuilding the human heart and mind, I laid a foundation in harmony with his original design, and others are now building on it. <sup>11</sup>For Jesus Christ is the only true foundation—the real source of God's character, methods and principles—and no one can replace him. <sup>12</sup>One can build on this foundation using pure, holy and costly materials, or using ordinary, common and cheap materials, <sup>13</sup>but ultimately, the work will reveal itself for what it is, because the day on which Christ returns will bring everything into the light of truth. On that day, the quality of a person's



character-building will be revealed by the fiery glory of God's presence—for only those whose characters are in harmony with God's character will be able to stand in the fiery presence of his life-giving glory.<sup>14</sup> And if those whom the builders have worked to build up in Christ survive, the builders will be rewarded with happiness and joy.<sup>15</sup> If, however, the builder's work is burned up, the builder will suffer great sorrow and loss: the builder will be saved, but only as one whose misunderstandings, errors, misconceptions and mistakes are consumed in the fire of God's truth and love.

## MONDAY

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What do you think of the title—Compassion Fatigue?

This is another of Satan's strategies. If he can't get Godly people to choose sin. If he can't get them disillusioned. If he can't get them to use the methods of this world. Then, he will try to overwhelm them with good missions, responsibilities, endeavors, projects that burns them out and removes them from the playing field.

This occurs because Satan tricks them into violating one of God's design laws—the law of restoration. Once a finite being expends a resource, we must rest and recover before we have more to expend. If we don't we burn out and eventually die:

- After using energy we must eat, drink, rest
- We must sleep
- We must get a weekly Sabbath rest
- Jesus took time away from the needy masses to rest and recover

Another trick of Satan is to get people to take upon themselves burdens that are not theirs—to seek to relieve burdens from another person that should be left with that person, whether literally or in imagination.

Many parents worry themselves by taking upon themselves the stress of their adult children's marriage problems, or financial problems, or work problems, or drug problems etc. Not focusing on creating opportunities for the adult to engage in healing and growth, but actually feeling the weight of the stress and being burdened with the problem as if it was theirs to fix.

This not only injures the person taking upon themselves unnecessary burdens, but to the degree they do alleviate the burden from the other person they rob that other person of opportunity for growth and advancement. Strength comes from exertion and if we take on others burdens, solve their problems etc. then they never exercise their abilities and they are stunted in their growth. So, this is not love—love will educate, teach, encourage, cheer, inspire, but ultimately leave burdens and responsibilities with the person whose they actually are.



Another trick is people who fail to differentiate *pain* from *harm* or *injury* and seek to relieve pain, or allow themselves to be mentally or emotionally distressed by someone else's pain, when in fact that pain is therapeutic.

The law of brokenness or healing: Once there is brokenness—there are no pain free options. Many fail to realize this and thus when they see someone in pain, they don't ask, is this harmful, or is this merely painful but actually good for them. A person who is doing physical therapy, weight bearing for the first time in 8 weeks after a fracture leg, will feel discomfort and pain—if you failed to understand the situation and simply heard the cry of pain, and with all compassion, you intervene, ask them to sit and you do the exercises for them—so they won't hurt—do you help them or hurt them?

While this is easy to see with physical wounds, it is not as easy to see with emotional wounds. Many people seek to relieve emotional pain, when the most healthy action is not to relieve it, but to encourage the person to wrestle through it and resolve the injury or wounds causing it. But this requires we tolerate the pain we see our loved one in.

This is why it is well known that doctors don't treat their own families the best, because they are too vulnerable to over empathize and thus not be able to give the best care, because they cannot tolerate the pain the person will necessarily experience.

The lesson points this out in the third paragraph, "There have been many examples in which well-intentioned people have caused damage to other people's lives by trying to help."

What is required beyond compassion in order to actually help?

A knowledge of reality—an understanding of design law, how God designed life to operate, and then an accurate diagnosis, what is wrong in that person's life that is causing their problems. Compassion without understanding, merely seeking to relieve pain, is like numbing a person's hand while it is touching a hot stove—relieving pain, but causing much more damage.

Read last paragraph, "Expectations:..." What is the difference between creating opportunity and demanding equal outcomes for all people?

Do you see the problem of promoting policies with the goal of demanding equal outcome?

While all people are of equal moral worth, as human beings, as children of God—not all people have equal abilities, equal desires, equal vision, equal motivation, equal aspiration, equal tenacity, equal drive, equal willingness to work, train, push oneself.

Some people will be better artists, musicians, athletes, mathematicians, carpenters etc. than others. One of the corruptions in society is the idea that we should have equal outcomes. In some school systems this desire for equal outcomes has led to teachers being instructed to refrain from praising the exceptional paper, performance, presentation for fear of hurting the feelings of the child who didn't do an exceptional performance; or giving participation awards so every child gets an award.



While the value of a person is not measured by their success in any endeavor, and we should make clear to children that they are loved for who they are and not what they do—we must also make clear that being loved for who they are doesn't develop their abilities—if they want to succeed in life they must apply themselves and develop their abilities. The law of exertion is how reality works, hard work does reap benefits.

## TUESDAY

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The first paragraph states, “God loves a cheerful giver” quoting 2Corinthians 9:7.

What does this mean?

What is the difference between God loves a cheerful giver and God loves a giver?

Is there a difference in giving cheerfully and giving under obligation? What is the difference?

Does God love some people more than others? If I give cheerfully does God have more love in His heart for me than for the person who gives begrudgingly?

Or is this describing a design law, how things actually work or function? God ability to send His love, share His love, imbue His love, dispense His love requires hearts open to receive and share it. Thus God is able to have His love flow into and through the cheerful giver because that person's heart is open to receive and share or give away more and more of what God has given them, but the person who gives under obligation is not practicing love—their hearts are not in tune with God and thus God cannot pour His love into their hearts.

Thus God *loves* a cheerful giver.

Consider the garden hose on your home and the fire hydrant in front of your house. If both are opened up full, which gives away more? Which receives more to it? The more you give the more you receive. If we understand the water as a metaphor for love, God loves the cheerful giver, God's love flows more fully into and through the cheerful giver. The resentful giver doesn't love and even though they may give under obligation their hearts are closed restricting God's love, thus God can't “love” them functionally.

This is how our ministry is designed to function. Many of you may know, that while we are a 501 C 3 not for profit ministry with the IRS, we do not do fund raisers. We have been practicing the principle of giving away the materials that God has blessed us with and people respond in love to give to support us in doing this. We give away:

- multiple DVD sets (4 different sets)
- *Could It Be This Simple?* here each week and at various conventions
- *The Remedy* as a free app and free audio



- Bible study guides
- Free access to all our online resources
- We give away my various books to pastors, church leaders, schools, libraries.
- Our training and equipping course is subsidized by our ministry, meaning while there is a sign-up cost to attendees, that cost does not cover our expenses for putting this on.
- At the General Conference in 2015 we gave away approximately (and I don't recall the exact number) 40,000 DVDs, 30,000 Bible Study Guides, 30,000 books, and other resources. There were three football field size rooms for the exhibits and we were the only one giving everything away. We had leaders of various other ministries coming up to us and asking us how are we able to afford to do this. And we explained God's economy, we give away and people who receive this material are moved to give back.
- We are currently scheduled to be at the GC in Indianapolis in 2020, please keep this in your prayers that God will keep this opportunity open for us. And we are working and planning for the materials we will be giving away. Last time we didn't do any fund raising, but we did let our supporters know of this opportunity and we heard back that many were glad we told them because they would have been disappointed if we didn't give them a chance to support us with their donations. So, I am letting you know again, we have a booth at the 2020 GC and are currently building our stock of materials to take and give away in case any of you want to support us in this. Our goal is to give more away than we did last time!

The bottom green section asks, "Besides giving money, even generously, what are other ways that we should manifest a generous spirit?"

## WEDNESDAY

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Blessed are the peacemakers—what does this mean?

How can we promote peace?

What is the only way for real peace to be experienced?

Can we ever have real peace without love and trust?

Can we get love and trust by treaties, laws, rules, force, threats of punishment?

Can God get love and trust, and thus eternal peace in His universe by punishing the wrong doers?

- Does that mean there is no punishment for sin? If I say: Parents don't inflict lung cancer on their children who smoke. Is that the same as saying smoking doesn't lead to lung cancer?
- Saying God doesn't inflict pain, suffering, death—i.e. punishment for sin, is not the same as saying there is no punishment for sin. Gal 6:8 those who sow to the carnal nature from that nature reap destruction.
- This only happens because God maintains and sustains His laws—He will not change His laws, thus "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law." (1 Co 15:56 NIV84).





How does God get love and trust and thus eternal peace?

How do we apply God's principles in a wicked world?

Do peacemakers ever use force? What kind of force? Restraining force—absolutely, what is the goal of restraining force?

What do you think of gunmaker Colt coming out with a pistol in 1873 called the Peacemaker?

Then there is this quote, unknown source, “God made some men big and others small, but Sam Colt made all men the same size.”

What is implied? That bullies exist in the world and dominate and abuse the weak and the Peacemaker would diminish the disparity between the strong and the weak and thus decreased the abuse of others.

Did this work—did the development of the revolver and its wide distribution result in greater peace? No, it just changed who the bullies are. It has always been and always will about character!

We can never get peace with greater might and power, better weapons, only by dying to fear and selfishness in the heart and restoring God's love and character within!

Do you agree—we can't get peace with weapons? Then what did Jesus mean when He said:

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Mt 10:34-36 NIV84

What is going on? What is being described? With what law lens to you understand this through?

- What is the problem that causes division, conflict? Selfishness in the heart
- Then what is Jesus saying He didn't come to bring peace but a sword?
- Peace with what and what kind of sword?
- He didn't come to bring peace with selfishness but the sword of truth to cut it out of our hearts and minds

From *The Remedy*:

"Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people.<sup>35</sup> I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut



through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law.<sup>36</sup> A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family.

The last paragraph points out that Jesus said we should not be angry or hold grudges—why not?

Is there a design law involved—a law on how reality functions, something that is predictable and reproducible?

What happens, every time, in the heart of a person who refuses to forgive, who holds grudges?

What happens, every time, in the heart of the person who forgives?

This is the law of forgiveness—healing only comes through forgiveness. If we hold resentment and bitterness we cannot avoid the damaging consequences to our own characters and bodies—such attitudes activate stress pathways and cause increased inflammation and lead to more disease and earlier death.

## THURSDAY

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Read first paragraph, “Solomon wrote...” What is the way we go about achieving the goal of speaking for the oppressed?

Who determines who is being oppressed? What is the standard?

In some cultures, women are not allowed to be educated, are traded or sold to men, have no say in whom they are to marry, are used as baby making machines—is this oppression?

Would the leadership of those cultures agree that they are oppressing their women? Who is right, what standard is used?

What about cultures who say women are forbidden from being in leadership roles, is that a form of oppression? What would the leaders who teach women are forbidden from ordination say? Would they agree that they are oppressing women? What is right, what standard is used?

What is the standard? What about the golden rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”? Is this a good standard? Or would even this golden rule require us to understand the principles of life, the protocols upon which life is built in order not to oppress or injure others?

For instance, what would the doctors who treated George Washington want done to them had they had pneumonia? They were applying the golden rule, but they were injuring because they didn't understand reality—God's design for life.

How many in religious circles do what they think is good, believing they are following God's will, but because they don't understand God's character or His design laws actually harm?



## **FRIDAY**

Read first two paragraphs, “Search heaven and earth...” What is this truth that none other is more powerful than? The law of love!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** January 17-19, 2020, in Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport) we will have a Come and Reason Ministries: The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

*The Remedy Psalms* is complete and online and will soon be updated to the free app.

**September 13,14, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Gentlebrook Intermediary Care Facility, Hartville, OH.

**September 21, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Crossroads Community Church in Georgetown Delaware.

**October 9-12, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the American Association of Christian Counselors World Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth in the exhibit hall sharing our material with the attendees.

**November 15-17, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Norwegian SDA Health Worker's Retreat in Oslo, Norway.

**November 24, 2019:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Aachen Germany.

**January 17-19, 2020:** The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly. Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport). See [events.comeandreason.com](http://events.comeandreason.com) for more details and to sign up.