



Lesson 151 Pride and self is the death of men

Emotions, judgments, fiery hearts sometimes these get the best of us. Sometimes we get self into the picture but this is a mistake because in the end when we allow this to happen, then, what we are actually doing is allowing the enemy to operate in our lives. Pride and jealousy are at the root of this (i.e. self). Defeat self. Defeat putting yourself before others. Defeat loving yourself before others. Defeat the enemy and walk in love. Put the Lord first. There is success in this because when you do this, when you walk in this, then, this is when you are actually doing and moving forward in what is best for you not otherwise. You may have in the past felt that revenge was the right answer but it is not for that (revenge) should be left up to the Lord. No, the right answer is, to move forward in life, putting the Lord and His will first. This is where true success comes from.

Introduction

Today's lesson is about controlling "self" but it is also about the level of success that comes from following this course of action. Now this (controlling self) this makes total sense to me, because in my mind when I am thinking about "self", I think of it as being a kind of monster that hides within each one of us. It wants to be in charge. It wants to be the boss and this is because,

Self is defined as:

- a person or thing referred to with respect to complete individuality
- a person's nature, character, etc.
- personal interest
- philosophically it is the ego
- one's own welfare or interest

Synonyms: narcissistic, autonomous

Therefore when a person is all about being into "self", well this person seeks after their own interest and welfare before those of others. They are focused on their own ego and individuality; but what the Lord is teaching us here is that, getting into "self" has negative consequences. And it is for this reason that we should not proceed forward with this type of mindset. The Lord has said,

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.

However, **Emotions, judgments** even **fiery hearts** when "self" becomes involved with these then things like negativity, pride, and arrogance rear their ugly heads. And as stated above it is for this reason that it is never a good idea to allow "self" to take over or "**get the best of us**" as the Lord put it.

But there is something worse than this that we need to understand. Yes, the Lord wants us to realize that when we give “self” the authority to influence and/or modify our behavior then **what we are actually doing is allowing the enemy to operate in our lives.** We are in effect opening the door and inviting him in to set about his work. This is bad. So much so in fact that the bible warned us against this when it said:

2 Timothy 3:1-4 *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*

Hence, the preponderance of “self” that is seen in the world today, well, this has been foretold since the days of old. Today’s man looks upon this as self-empowerment as opposed to egotism, vanity, disobedience, and dissension. This is not good.

Therefore as we move forward through today’s lesson, as we do this, we will receive the Lord’s message and what we will come to discover is **that true success comes from putting the Lord and His will first.** Hence, we will learn that success does not come from selfishness but from submission.

James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

This is the truth that the Lord is sharing with us today. It is a truth that leads to triumph. It is a truth that leads to victory.

Defeat Self

In the introduction section of this lesson we learned that we should be putting the Lord first and following after His will for our lives. We learned that it is better to follow this course than one of selfishness. When the Lord began speaking on “self” this week He went on to say that:

Pride and jealousy are at the root of this (i.e. self).

James, the brother of Jesus spoke on the issue of pride and jealousy. Basically we could say that he spoke on “self” when he said this,

James 4:1-2a *What is causing all the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it your desires battling inside you? You desire things and don't have them. You kill, and you are jealous, and you still can't get them.*

From what we just read we can see that he began by talking about people who had set their minds on their desires or in other words he was talking about people who had decided to give control over to “self” because they were desiring things that they did not have. That sounds like pride and jealousy to me, how about you?

Then James also went on to note the negative consequences of their choices. Remember earlier in the lesson when we said, that the Lord is teaching us that, getting into “self” has negative consequences. Well, James spoke of these same negative consequences when he spoke of fight and quarreling even killing. But let’s read on and see what he said:

James 4:2b-3 *So you fight and quarrel. The reason you don't have is that you don't pray! Or you pray and don't receive, because you pray with the wrong motive, that of wanting to indulge your own desires.*

James could see that these people were letting "self" get a hold of them. They were not seeking out the Lord. They were moving forward in wrong motives, basically, they were moving forward in "self" and there were experiencing the negative consequences of these choices. But of this mindset the Lord said:

Defeat self.

And of this He has also said,

10/05/13 - **Pride and self is the death of men.**

10/06/13 - **Self/Unmitigated/Destroys Fellowship.**

So you may ask, "How can I defeat "self". Well some clues may be found in this:

First, realize that you are never alone. Christ is always with you.

Deuteronomy 31:6 *"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."*

Joshua 1:5 *"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."*

Hebrews 13:5 ... *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

January 10th God Calling Eventide - Hush your spirit still more in My Presence. **Self dies**, not by human combat, not necessarily by supplicatory prayer, but **by the consciousness of My Presence**, and of My Spirit-values. Thus self shrivels into lifelessness, into nothingness. It is so necessary to dwell with Me, to draw so close to Me in an understanding as complete as it is possible for man to realize.

Do you not see now the need for the training and discipline I have enjoined on you? They are vital in that they attune your being to the consciousness of My Mind and Purpose. When this Mind is in you that is in Me you are able to penetrate the outer courts of the Temple, and in the very Holy of Holies to grasp the meaning that lay behind all I said and did and was.

Sacrifice all for this. Your work has to be inspired. Where can you find inspiration but in My Presence?

Second, choose to turn self out.

1 Corinthians 10:24 *Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.*

1 Corinthians 13:5 ...*does not seek its own.*

January 16th God Calling Eventide - Never lose heart. Kill the proud self as you go on, for on that dead self you rise on ever with Me. Do not let earth's frets disturb you. Since you cannot follow Me and indulge self, at all costs turn self out directly its claims disturb; so only can you keep spiritual calm.

Not your circumstances but your *self* is the enemy. A man's foes are those of his own household. Do others blame you falsely? I was reviled (to assail, to speak abusively) but I reviled not again.

Therefore, from what we have learned thus far, we defeat self by first realizing that Christ is always with us, we are never alone. He's always there close at hand. Second, we have to choose to eliminate self and wrong motives. We have to choose to get control of our desires. The Lord described it like this:

Defeat putting yourself before others. Defeat loving yourself before others. Defeat the enemy and walk in love.

Or in other words:

Luke 6:31 *"And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise."*

Romans 15:2 *Let each of us please his neighbor for his good,*

1 Corinthians 16:14 *Let all that you do be done in love.*

Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

We defeat "self" by putting others before ourselves. We defeat "self" by loving them more than we love ourselves. We defeat "self" by walking in love.

Put the Lord First

In the last section we discussed some of the methods that could be used to defeat "self". In this section we will talk about putting the Lord first in our life. The Lord described it like this when He said,

Put the Lord first. There is success in this because when you do this, when you walk in this, then, this is when you are actually doing and moving forward in what is best for you not otherwise.

Consequently, when we read those words I think we could see where the Lord was going with today's message. You see He has implied here that the success we are seeking after in life, it will not come from putting "self" before others. It will not come from putting "self" before the Lord. True success will only come from a relationship grounded in Him. In the message we were reading earlier from James, when he was speaking of wrong motives, fighting and going after your own desires at the expense of others, well, he went on to declare this:

James 4:4-8 *You unfaithful wives! **Don't you know that loving the world is hating God?** Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy! Or do you suppose the Scripture speaks in vain when it says that there is a spirit in us which longs to envy? But the grace he gives is greater, which is why it says, "God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace." **Therefore, submit to God.** Moreover, take a stand against the Adversary, and he will flee from you. **Come close to God, and he will come close to you.***

James understood the importance of submitting to God. He understood the importance of moving closer to the Lord, putting Him first in our lives. Remember we are talking about

success here. We are talking about eliminating self, eliminating wrong motives, fights and quarrels. What we are talking about here is a life apart with Him by putting Him first.

10/05/13 - **Obedience equals victory.**

10/08/13 - **Each must choose to offer up their vessel to Me to be used/ I will not force any/ Freedom, freewill your choice/ I use you because you choose to be used/ Continue to make this choice and you will go far.**

10/08/13 - **Effects of obedience far reaching into eternity/ Disobedience effects the same way.**

March 29th God Calling - I reward your seeking with My Presence. Rejoice and be glad. I am your God. Courage and joy will conquer all troubles. First things first.

Seek Me, love Me, joy in Me. I am your Guide. No perils can affright you, no discipline exhaust you. Persevere. Can you hold on in My strength? I need you more than you need Me. Struggle through this time for My sake. Initiation precedes all real work and success for Me.

Are you ready to live a life apart? Apart with Me? In the world and yet apart with Me? Going forth from your secret times of communion to rescue and save?

A life apart is a life marked by putting Him first in it. This is where our true success will come into it. The choice is yours.

Revenge

- Thus far we have talked about defeating self and putting the Lord first in our lives. We have talked about realizing that He is always with us and that we must make the right choices to move forward towards success in Him. But you may remember that this entire lesson began by the Lord speaking on negative **Emotions, judgments, and fiery hearts that sometimes get the best of us.** This is so much so in fact that **Sometimes** they lead us to **get self into the picture.** We discovered that this happens because we are seeking after success basically at any cost. Pride, jealousy and a whole scope of negativity can then become involved in this process, which leads us here to this point where the Lord said:

You may have in the past felt that revenge was the right answer but it is not for that (revenge) should be left up to the Lord.

Therefore, revenge is a destructive choice. It is a wrong choice that has been spoken of before by the Lord in verses like these:

Leviticus 19:18 *You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.*

Romans 12:19 *Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

1 Peter 3:9 *Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:15 *See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.*

Consequently revenge seems to be the antithesis of love and grace and moving forward in the Lord. This is because revenge is about taking matters into our own hands (getting into self). It implies a lack of trust and faith in the Lord our God. The very act of it is one of disobedience and rebellion. And it goes against what the Lord has taught us about loving others, even those who offend us:

Matthew 5:43-48 *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

1 John 4:8 *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

1 John 4:20 *If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

And this:

10/05/13 - Be kind, be considerate. Genuine love covers a multitude of sins. It leads to new pathways. It changes people's walk. Therefore you should always move forward in this.

10/08/13 - Be an example for Me of real following Me/ No condemnation for any/ Forgiveness for all/ Each must forgive and be forgiven constantly/ This I would have you do.

10/08/13 - Condemn no one/ Love all where there at/ Show them My love.

10/09/13 - Be kind to one another...gentle.

Revenge does not move us closer to the Lord. This is because it is a doorway that in actuality moves us further away from the Lord as opposed to bringing us closer to Him. It just so happens that it is a door that opens to the enemy, that allows him to legally operate in our life. Therefore it is a door to be avoided as we should *always seek to do good to one another and to everyone*. This is the Lord's way.

True Success

In the last section we discovered that revenge is never the answer to our problems. It in fact causes more problems because it opens the door that allows the enemy to operate in our life. Revenge, you see, it is a door that "self" chooses to open but what this lesson has revealed is that we need to get rid of "self" and move forward in success. Therefore the Lord has provided us with the correct answer to the question of revenge. He said it like this:

No, the right answer is, to move forward in life, putting the Lord and His will first. This is where true success comes from.

10/04/13 - Focus on Me reveals tremendous blessings.

10/04/13 - Seek Me in all you do. I will guide you.

10/04/13 - My bride moves in My ways. You have seen what needs to be, now move in this.

Life with Me takes discipline. There can be no self. Of course, mistakes will be made but it's about focus and keeping me as the head of your household. Why do you think father walking in patriarch-hood is so important. It is because they are a representation of My relationship with My children. Its about honor and respect and making sound decisions.

10/05/13 - Seek to do My will constantly/ Step by step.

10/05/13 - I Love you eternally. HH- Maintain focus. I AM your focus. Look to your God Jesus for answers not man. I AM guiding and directing. Keep focus forward on your God Jesus.

10/09/13 - Focus on your God Jesus important. Starting point for many. New hope born. A day to move forward in your God Jesus.

10/09/13 - Always turn to Me, That is the answer.

Hence success does not come from opening wrong doors. Success does not come from being “self” serving. No success comes from following after the Lord and putting Him first in your life. In this true success is found.

Matthew 6:24 *“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Romans 8:5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

Colossians 3:1-4 *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

We are to seek the things of Christ. We are to serve Him. We are to set our minds on the things of the Spirit and:

Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*

Summation

Today’s lesson was about controlling “self” and the measure of success that comes from following this course of action. Through the lesson we learned that people get into “self” by seeking after their own interest and welfare before those of others. They are focused on their own ego and individuality; but what the Lord taught us here is that, getting into “self” has negative consequences. And that’s why this type of mindset never leads to success.

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote a passage that dealt with this very issue. He came to the conclusion that we should be submitting to the Lord instead of submitting to selfishness and wrong motives. This is because he understood the importance of moving closer to the Lord, and putting Him first in our lives. We even discussed revenge and how some might equate taking matters into our own hands with success and empowerment and being pro-active. But what we discovered is that the Lord’s path is the path that leads to true success and of revenge the Lord said that it should be left to Him. Our job is simply to put God first and to follow His path of love because God is love.

Colossians 3:14 *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Perfect harmony isn’t that what we are seeking after; a life where doors have been shut to the enemy, a life where the enemy is not allowed to operate in our lives. A life that is void of pride and jealousy, negative emotions, judgments and fiery hearts. This week the Lord led us to this type of success and harmony through these words:

Emotions, judgments, fiery hearts sometimes these get the best of us. Sometimes we get self into the picture but this is a mistake because in the end when we allow this to happen, then, what we are actually doing is allowing the enemy to operate in our lives. Pride and jealousy are at the root of this (i.e. self). Defeat self. Defeat putting yourself before others. Defeat

loving yourself before others. Defeat the enemy and walk in love. Put the Lord first. There is success in this because when you do this, when you walk in this, then, this is when you are actually doing and moving forward in what is best for you not otherwise. You may have in the past felt that revenge was the right answer but it is not for that (revenge) should be left up to the Lord. No, the right answer is, to move forward in life, putting the Lord and His will first. This is where true success comes from.

The Lord loves us:

10/05/13 - I Love you I Love you I Love you. Think on this.

10/06/13 - Remember that I am always with you. I see all. I heard all. I am in all spaces, all times. I AM always with you. Reflect our connectedness. Reflect Me.

10/06/13 - I am with you.

10/08/13 - I am is with you.

10/08/13 - I will never leave your side/ I love you My child.

He wants the best for us and that is why true success is found only in Him, that is why we should reciprocate and put Him first in our lives as well.

May the Lord bless you as you move forward in this.

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