

Lesson 33 – Protections

Protect: Definition – to cover or shield from exposure, injury, damage or destruction; guard; defend; 2. maintain the status or integrity especially through financial or legal guarantees; to save, to foster or shield; 3. to defend

Protection: Definition – the act of protecting or the state of being protected; 2. one that protects, supervises or supports one that is smaller or weaker, a contraceptive device; 3. the freedom of the producers of a country from foreign competition in the home market by restrictions on foreign competitive goods (i.e. high duties); 4. immunity from prosecution purchased by criminals through bribery, money extorted by racketeers; 5. **coverage; 6. anchoring equipment placed in cracks for safety in rock climbing.**

When Bob suggested we do a lesson on protections I was overwhelmed at first because it seems like a pretty big subject to work on but I have found that the definition of the word is always a good place to start. The definition of a word conveys the idea or meaning of the word. Therefore the ideas behind protection are preventing, shielding, defending and/or saving. The Lord wants to protect us from harm. He told Abram "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." The Lord is your shield also.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." We are saved or protected from death through our belief and confession of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Our Father made a way where there was no way. He is protecting us from death.

Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." The Lord wants to protect you from sowing ill will or disharmony because He understands that **you reap what you sow**. Remember the commandments: you shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal etc. these commandments are about how we treat others. The Lord wants to shield you from all kind of unpleasantness. Therefore he gave us some rules to live by; obedience to these rules or commandments can protect you from all kinds of heartache and problems.

The Bible says in Romans 6:16

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Many years ago when my boys were young we lived in a home on a busy street. We didn't have a fence so I wouldn't let them play outside unless I was outside with them. I was watching over them. Trying to protect them from harm. I had rules they had to obey as a part of this protection (Don't get in the street; you can't go outside unless mommie is with you etc). Likewise, the Lord has rules or commandments we must obey as a part of our protections (i.e. confessing Christ properly, etc). Our obedience to the Lord leads to safety and righteousness.

The book of Job also teaches us about protections. From chapter 1:7-10 *And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? **Have you not made a hedge around him**, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land." Why did the Lord place the hedge around Job? What was different about Job? The answer comes from verse 8 where the Lord states a *blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil*. Job paid attention to his actions. He was obedient to the Lord's commands. He was upright and blameless. In fact he was so conscientious according to the Bible that *when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them (his children), and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts."* Thus Job did regularly. He was seeking protections not only for himself but for his family also. He did not like sin. The Lord states that Job was blameless which is to say he was obedient. He shunned evil. He put the Lord first.*

This passage also states that Job was *one who fears God* or you could say he had respect for the Lord. He understood the Lord is the King of Kings. He understood the Lord is the creator of all things. He understood we have nothing if not for the Lord.

A clear understanding of how the Lord uses the book of Job to teach us about his protections can be found on the THH website: <http://www.takehisheart.com/tithegivegod.htm#book> God mentions Job to Satan. **Satan did not come to the meeting to accuse Job before God!** He had been going to and fro in the earth and he couldn't attack Job because of God's hedge **and He knew it!** One thing we must understand is that Satan is not dumb and would not mention Job to God. He knew he wouldn't win the case; he wouldn't waste his time.

Job 1:8

And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and an upright man, one that fears God, and shuns evil?

Because God had now opened the door to Satan, in the next verses we see Satan seize the opportunity to accuse Job of something not proven - **All in the plan of God, all done for His purposes.**

Job 1:9-11

*So Satan answered the Lord, and said, Does Job fear God for nothing? **Have you not made a hedge around him**, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.*

We know that Satan was released to attack Job and we can see his works of killing, stealing, and destroying. The point is that Satan was going to and fro in the earth and we know he knew Job was God's man because of his reply to God in verses 9-11, **but the point is, he hadn't been able to touch Him.**

What did Job have that Christians don't have today? What did Jesus have that Christians don't have today? I have heard Christians testify of victories over the enemy, calling him

toothless and dumb, only to be stabbed or attacked from the back soon after. Your shield of faith must be held up between you and the fiery darts that are coming at you. While you are doing this, your back side is exposed. **You need someone to cover your backside.**

My first introduction to the idea of God covering my backside was when He started teaching me about tithing. The first place the Lord took me in the Bible was to Isaiah 58:6 - 8 where God is talking about fasting. This has not been considered a tithing scripture, but this is where the Lord started me. Why? It is because God is fasting, **doing without** something that is His, His Tithe, for a purpose which is **to let the oppressed go free! He does** what He tells us to do!

Isaiah 58:6 - 8

Is this not the fast that I (God) have chosen? (God chose to do without His wealth - tithe) to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your (we are His hands, as a church and individuals) bread to the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him; and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily: and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard (protection).

When the Lord dealt with me about these scriptures, He revealed that we (the church) are God's hands and feet handling His wealth; and we carry out, do what these scriptures say, as a church! I repeat, God is fasting, **doing without** something that is His, what is the only thing He retained for Himself, His Tithe, for a purpose **to let the oppressed go free!** We are His vessels to implement this on earth. This understanding of these scriptures is the only picture that allows them to line up with the rest of the Bible. **It's the only understanding that "Is not this the fast that I (God) have chosen?" fits.** The result of doing these things results in the glory of the Lord being **our rear guard, our hedge.**

Going back to Job, we see that he was fulfilling the picture given in Isaiah and the result had been a hedge around him and his goods. **Job knew what working righteousness was! In Chapter 29 Job is speaking of what he had done in the past.**

Job 29:12-17

*Because I delivered **the poor** who cried out, **the fatherless**, and **the one who had no helper**. The blessing of a perishing man came upon me: and I caused **the widow's** heart to sing for joy. I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my justice was like a robe and a turban. I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. I was a father to the poor: and I searched out the case that I did not know. I broke the fangs of the wicked, and plucked the victim from his teeth.*

Doing all of this had produced a hedge around Job.

Further on this, Deuteronomy 26:12 teaches us that the tithe is to be delivered to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. Job tells us in chapter 29 that he did exactly that. He delivered to the poor, the fatherless, the widow etc. He put on righteousness. The result of Job doing these things was a hedge being placed around him. You likewise can have the hedge of protection placed around you if you follow Job's example.

The Lord states in Malachi 3:6 *"For I am the Lord, I do not change; a little further in that same chapter he goes on to say ... from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you."* Says the Lord of hosts. *But you said, "In what way shall we return?" "Will a man rob God?" Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings."* **And the**

consequences of not tithing properly.... *You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation, bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house and try Me now in this,* Says the Lord of hosts, *“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes.”*

...and I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes. The Lord will place that hedge around you. Proverbs 3:9-10 states *Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.* This likewise is a promise from the Lord just as He said it in Malachi *“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”* This all sounds pretty wonderful to me, protections and blessings, received as a result of obedience.

I want to backup for a moment and discuss one more important point. Remember earlier in this lesson we talked about one who fears God or in other words one who respects God. Job was pointed out as being a person who “feared” God. I mentioned that he understood that the Lord is the King of Kings. This is actually a very important part of delivering your tithe correctly. And that is this, when delivering your tithe you must deliver it in the Lord’s name. The recipient of the tithe should understand this is from the Lord and He wants them to have it (This is from Jesus. He wants you to have it; or something to this effect).

This statement is important because it acknowledges the Lord and His involvement in our lives today. You see words have power; giving the credit to the Lord conveys several powerful messages. First, these words demonstrate that Jesus is our Lord and Savior and we are a servant or liaison for the King of Kings. Secondly, these words demonstrate He is alive and active today. And they also demonstrate that He is a compassionate God that cares for His children.

Job was a righteous man. He was obedient to the Lord. The Lord will place His hedge of protection around you just as He protected Job. We can testify to this. Remember Malachi 3:6 *“For I am the Lord, I do not change.”* This same protection is available for everyone. For a more detailed look into the Mechanics of Tithing and its benefits go to <http://www.takehisheart.com/givingtithesbiblething.htm#book> .