

How we come to the gathering of the saints is so important!

I pray that you have come, and that you always come in the spirit of meekness, and as the 4th Beatitude says:

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”

I hope you had “seeing eyes” and “hearing ears” this morning, so that you would never (as a child of God) have the spirit or attitude of retaliation and revenge! Remember Romans 12:19:

“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, (do not retaliate) but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord”. Psalm 94:1-3

And then, we left off this morning with turning the other cheek; and that our spirit/attitude must never be a spirit of revenge/retaliation for slanders, insults, or injuries done to us personally; but as our Lord Jesus is our example of suffering patiently, so let us follow His example in our lives.

(V40): “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also”. Exodus 22:26-27

In the days of Jesus’ earthly ministry, to take a man’s undergarments and outward tunic was to leave him destitute and in great need. His tunic was, in all probability his only one. We know nothing of living like that! Fact is, a man with 3 or 4 sets of garments was wealthy!

That being said: TODAY, we live in a sue happy society; just look at the billboards; “my lawyer got me \$300,000 dollars!” And so, now, people have a little fender bender, or they slip and fall at your house; NOW they see an opportunity to GET a bunch of money. So, they sue you!

These lawsuits are very often motivated by greediness, covetousness, and for the love of money, which is the root of all evil. Sure that makes me mad, as well as you....but remember, we are NOT to retaliate in kind!

What should you and I do if we find ourselves being sued over something frivolous and ridiculous?

Our attitude should be, we should cheerfully desire to give those that would sue us, “the shirts off our backs”. BOTTOM LINE: We must not possess the spirit of retaliation.

What the Lord Jesus is teaching us is; in the world, you will suffer personal injustices and you will be defrauded and treated wrongfully; if someone has a quarrel against you personally; cheerfully suffer yourself to be wronged.

Don't strike back, don't counter sue him and take him to court, as he did you; for in doing so you will greatly dishonor the Lord Jesus and misrepresent the Kingdom of Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

(V41): "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain"

To compelled to go a mile means to be pressed or forced into service; or to be commandeered by restraint.

Do you ever feel as if you are being "forced or compelled" to do something for someone? They're not asking you; they're demanding that you help them! Well, there's something here for all of us!

Jesus is teaching us; don't just do what you're being compelled or forced to do; DO MORE! There should be a desire in our hearts, as children of Christ to DO MORE than what we are being required, or even demanded to do! Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21

In the time of Christ, and of the Roman Empire, soldiers of Kingdoms had the authority to "commandeer" or force a person into service in the name of the King, in this case, Caesar. In all probability, that is what this soldier did to Simon. What an honor for Simon to carry Jesus' cross!

Have you ever been subpoenaed to Jury Duty?

Have you ever noticed how many people there are who go before the judge and complain about being subpoenaed or "ordered" to serve as a juror?

Judge in Kim's case. When I was being deployed!

The Lord is teaching us, if you are called into service by the governor or the parish/county, we are not to argue or dispute the matter. We should go; and serve well.

Our Lord Jesus is the greatest example of going the extra mile!

He never turned anyone away who was in need of Him; even when He was tired and looking for a place to rest; when the multitudes found Him, He received them, had compassion on them, fed them, and loved them.

We should all be going the "extra mile" in all of our relationships; for family, friends, strangers; all for the honor of God and the Name of Jesus Christ and for the sake of the gospel!

Matthew 8:1-7, 9:18-19, 14:13-20

(V42): “Give to him that asketh of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn thou not away”

Now you don't need me to tell you that you need to exercise wisdom with those on the roadside asking for money. I would be very careful of giving money to them. I am not going to give them what they want, but I CAN give them what they need, the gospel and a meal!

In this: remember that your property is NOT your own, it was given and entrusted to you by your Lord!

Our attitude about our STUFF ought to be that we are only stewards and caretakers of that which God hath given to us. It's God's stuff! The Lord is teaching us how we are to give and lend! Luke 6:27-38

This is certainly the attitude that we should have in regard to the gospel of Jesus Christ! Matthew 10:8: “Freely ye have received; freely give”