

“THEY THAT TAKE THE SWORD SHALL PERISH WITH THE SWORD”

*Being Sermon Delivered by the Father
Through Brother O. O. Obu Leader of the
Brotherhood of the Cross and Star*

1st. Lesson Matthew 5 : 21 - 22

2nd. Lesson Matthew 26 : 52

3rd. Lesson Revelation 13 : 10

To some of us it appears that there are many men of God in this world, and we begin to wonder why in spite of all these men there is still all that much sin in the whole world today.

Our first lesson shows that from the beginning of the world, the supposed men of God were not really what they claimed or what people thought them to be, because they were all guilty of murder. And we know that of all sins, murder is the greatest. “And ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

The greatest commandment ever given by God which is “Thou shalt not kill” is the main reason why all other commandments are given.

Most precious: Man is the most precious handiwork of God and the destruction of man's life in whatever way or by whatever means compels God's anger and his justice of “measure for measure” against the destroyer and the killer. Therefore, anybody who does not want his own life to be pestered or destroyed should not pester or destroy another person's life.

Murderer: But if you a man of God is a murde-

rer, what remains of him to turn to satan? As a murderer he is already dead, and his work of God is also dead. So are they all dead who claim to be doing the work of God, but who have all committed murder. And since they are dead who are supposed to destroy sin, sins live and abound. Therefore, the sin of murder makes it impossible to find one man of God ever since.

To be a murderer, one needs not necessarily shoot with gun, cut with machet or slay with the sword. There are several other ways in which murder can be committed: broadly by thought, word and deed.

If you kill by word of mouth, it is the same murder as by poisoning, beating with stick, bombing or slaying with the sword. If you bear grudge against anybody, or say to anybody 'Raca' you have committed murder in your heart and by your speech. Whenever you speak any type of evil against anybody you have committed murder.

By Intention: If you have any intention to kill, if you sharpen your knife, prepare your gun or order weapons of war with intention to attack and destroy life, even without actually making the attack yet, you have already committed murder. Apart from the actual preparation, the intention is sinful enough to be the offence.

If you have any secret meeting to plan how to attack and kill any person, you have already committed murder by the mere planning. Yet today what appears to be the universal handiwork of everybody; is the piling up of weapons of war

attack, kill and defend. And defence is our
excuse.

Before you say that a man is a real Christian,
have you examined him to see that he is not in
any way guilty of murder? If we commit mur-
der and deserve to suffer as murderers, why then
should we doubt the way things have been going
along with us?

God does not want us to suffer. In this wis-
dom he knows that any person who commits
murder either by thought, word or deed must
suffer exactly the same way and die exactly as
he has caused to suffer and die. That is why
God has given us a commandment that we should
not kill.

Self-Defence: If anybody kills in self-defence,
he is a murderer before God, though the world
may acquit him by the law court.

All the military tactics used by soldiers to kill
in attack or defence amount to murder. In anger
most people speak without restraint, trying to
satisfy themselves or revenge. If somebody
offends you and you utter some threats like "I
am going to show you", you have committed
murder.

If your properties are stolen and you have in-
jured or actually go to a soccerer to find out
the thief to harm him, you have committed mur-
der.

The native doctor who tells you "come, let
me kill that thief for you" is guilty of murder.
If you accept his proposal you are guilty of mur-
der together with him. If you place juju on any-

thing to prevent thieves from stealing your things you have committed murder. If you invoke the juju to harm the person who has touched or stolen your property you have committed murder.

If in the law court you pass judgment that somebody be hanged, you have committed murder. The person who prepares the gallows commits murder the same as the executioner. Why then should we still doubt the way things happen to us daily. We are suffering like murderers; we should not blame it on God or our neighbours, enemies or juju. We are reaping what we sowed.

When you give somebody medicine to drink or inject him and if that medicine or injection kills him you have committed murder.

If you commit abortion or consent or aid the abortion of your daughter simply because you would not like her to be dismissed from school you are a murderer.

Suicide: When you say that things are not good with you and go to kill yourself, the sin does not end in your committing suicide you have committed murder, you are guilty of murder. No matter the way you commit the suicide either by hanging, drowning or poisoning, you are a murderer. Even if you think or say that life does not favour or that life is not good with you, and that you better die away, you have committed murder by the mere mentioning of these words. If you think like this in your heart it is the same murder that you have committed. In these things we have sinned and the wages of sin is death.

Do all you can to ensure that your fellow human being has life. It is in this that Brotherhood of the Cross and Star has taught you to bless those who curse and persecute you, and pray for them. Agree to be accused falsely; carry every burden and accept to suffer for the sake of the Cross and the glory of God, and in the end, you will earn eternal life. This is the meaning of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star.

Revenge: There is no need for us to revenge. Our forefathers before us revenged and are all dead today. You may say "Let me do whatever I like, for whatever a person does he must die." But I disagree with you. You cannot kill as you like. Whoever kills must die. Who does not kill will not die.

If you should say because Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon all died to support your statement you are mistaken.

Did not Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon kill? Were they not all warriors? And if they were what sort of God's work could they have done? What sort of man of God could any of them make? Did they not deserve to suffer and die as murderers which they were?

Because they suffered and died as murderers, their children are also bound to suffer the result of their parents' sins for the Scripture says "... For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."

Any person who commits murder hates God. We are today suffering because of the sin of murder which our ancestors committed. In Acts 7:6-7, is recorded what God said to Abraham "And God spake on this wise, that his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

And the nation to whom they shall be bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come and serve me in this place." Pharoah and his subjects who committed murder against the children of Israel finally perished in the Red Sea. We have seen how all men in the past suffered because of murder. Today almost everybody is suffering because of the same sin.

Yet even those who are converted christians today are very often heard saying to somebody who offends them. "Were it yesterday when I was of the world, I would have done you something." This also is committing murder by word of mouth. But my christian friends do not know this, though they go about with their Bible preaching and calling themselves men of God.

Since the world began have you ever seen a murderer with his family living in peace? Whoever takes the sword must perish by the sword. It is by committing murder that we lose all our blessings and earn for ourselves eternal curse and damnation. Jacob said to Simeon and Levi: "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are their habitations. O my Soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine

honour, be not thou united for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. Our seed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel."

Again, since Cain killed his brother Abel, the whole world seem to have no other work than killing themselves. The punishment of our fathers who committed murder before us is on us already. Yet we are seeking to add to this by committing more and more murder ourselves. If our parents died, vanquished in war, why should we go to plan revenge, to wipe off their shame? Revenge is murder whatever the reason.

The person who is guilty of it should die as a murderer. If our parents had suffered because they did not know God or know how bad it is to commit murder in any form, how much greater will our punishment be who now know all this and still commit murder. In Luke it is written.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not did commit things worthy of stripes shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

If we commit murder again this day it is deliberate and we deserve greater punishment.

Stopping Death: See the numerous churches

and prayer houses on earth today, yet death does not stop. Why? As long as we continue killing with our thoughts, words and actions in the way mentioned earlier in this gospel, we continue to set in cycle death that goes and comes back to start again with ourselves.

But it would be possible to stop death if we would stop killing.

If we would accept to bear the cross and suffer wrongs without complaint and die for love without resistance we would pass from death to life eternal. But all those who kill will be killed, and their children too will suffer death from the same sin unless somebody amongst them sacrifices himself to suffer wrong and death without resistance, for the coming generation to live and have peace.

So whatever you suffer do not commit murder and you and your children and grand-children shall have life.

Great: Remember Jesus remark, that of all that are born of woman none is as great as John the Baptist.

Why is John the greatest of them all? Remember also that David, Solomon, Moses and Joshua were regarded very great before John. Why did Jesus not confirm that these men were so great, but instead acclaimed John the Baptist as the greatest of all born of woman.

The reason is that John did not commit murder in any way. He killed nobody by thought. He did not pronounce any evil word against any person. He did not listen to anything said

against him by people. He was accused and imprisoned by Herod. He did not care to defend himself or say any evil word.

In the prison his head was sent for, chopped off into a plate and brought as Herod's birthday gift to his daughter. John died without resistance or commotion. Supposing you were John the Baptist would you not begin to defend yourself, killing and being killed? What we call self-defence is not known to God.

Why then do most of us resist instead of surrendering ourselves to God to use us as he likes even if it pleases him to make people ill-treat us. After all it was not David or Moses or Solomon who were warriors defending themselves that Christ proclaimed great. It was John the Baptist who yielded meekly to persecution and death for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The same John did not commit murder.

Self-defence has never saved any person. It is the symptoms of fear. But Christ said "Fear not them which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

If we were christians and workers of God really trusting in God alone to keep or destroy our lives, why should we fear and try to defend ourselves so much so that we kill.

Let us examine all those whom we call the men of God of old whether they did not kill in war using either weapons, word of mouth or thought.

1st. Lesson : Matthew 5 : 21 - 22

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of

old time, thou shall not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of judgement: But I say unto you, that whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, thou fool shall be in danger of hell fire." Perhaps you may say: "Since I was born I never killed. By this you may only mean that you have never used gun, sword or stick to kill any person. But you may not in any way deny that you have killed so many thousands with your thought, word and look.

When you said thou fool to that brother the other day, you committed one murder. Since then you have repeated the same killing word to even a hundred people. Are you not a murderer? If you are jealous of the other girl because she is more beautiful than you, and say in your jealousy that she is too proud just to condemn her, you are a murderer.

If you are annoyed with anybody simply because he is more talented than yourself, you have committed murder. If you suspect and say that our rich brother acquired his.

If you try to block anybody's way, depriving him of his means of livelihood, you have committed murder. If you pray like David and say "O Lord, . . . fight against them that fight against me," you have committed murder. David prayed like this when he did not see the light. He was a warrior.

When the light which is Christ came, he did not utter anything even when persecuted. The Scripture says of him "He was led as a sheep to

the slaughter, and like a lamb dump before his slaughter, so opened he not his mouth." We have seen this light. Why should we kill again with our prayers. Whoever prays like David is not a man of God; instead he is a murderer.

We should be better men of God than those of old who committed murder. Otherwise, we are not fit to be called Christians. Christ said to his disciples: "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of heaven."

Where then lies the wisdom of the people of this world who do not want to disarm and live as brothers when they know that every sin you commit will be used against you on the day of judgment.

2nd Lesson: Matthew 26 : 52

"Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into it place for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

After Christ has commanded Peter against taking up the sword, any Christian stands condemned who takes up the sword against anybody under any circumstances. We have other swords which are more dangerous than that of steel. Bad words are bad swords. The evil thought we nurse against another person is a bad sword.

Our eyes which look dangerously at people are bad swords. With all these swords we commit more murder than those of old. Not many people will, like Peter see Christ face to face telling them to put down their swords.

God himself will not tell us more than what we

are hearing in this gospel. If you care to take up your sword after hearing this gospel, God will not interrupt you until you finish doing your heart's desire. Then you will die by the very sword you took against someone else.

When you lodge a complaint with the Police requiring to be given a constable, you will be given one. But when it is discovered that you have given a false information you yourself will be in big trouble, for the police will turn round and prosecute you.

Christ feared this repercussion, that is why he did not call upon His Father to send legions of angels to defend Him when the Jews arrested and killed him. And that is why he was free from the sin of murder, and God raised him up to life again on the third day.

This fulfils God's promise in Luke 9:24. "For who soever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Who among us today has succeeded in saving his own life? It is not yet time for the whole world to put back their swords, seeing that they cannot be saved by defending themselves or by committing murder?

Some people boast that God helps them to win a war. If they had known that God does not wish anybody to be killed even in battle or war, they would have no reason to rejoice especially as it is now quite clear that when we kill others we will also be killed by others.

Soldiers are murderers: If you are thinking that soldiers as fighters are doing the work of God, you are wrong. For how could they be doing the work of God by murdering. No matter how much a person may be preaching, no amount of patriotism warrants anybody to kill a fellow human being.

If you had been making mistake of considering

a murderer as a man of God simply because he preaches the gospel, or claims to be defending your country, don't do so again, because no murderer is justified before God. Soldiers are murderers. They are always fighting and killing. They are paid to commit this havoc.

And are the governments who pay them not murderers? Every minute of the day soldiers are busy thinking and planning how to attack or defend. And murderers they themselves are dead already. In II Timothy 3 : 13 we read "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse, deceiving, and being deceived." That is why soldiers today are killing and are being killed.

Our duty: We owe a duty to preserve life, not destroy it. For this cause, Christ humbled himself unto death. He preserved his good works and committed no sin, so that he might be able to preserve the life of sinners and make them partakers of eternity.

3rd. Lesson: Revelation 13 : 10

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints." This faith made the saints to be patient in suffering all things with the full knowledge that if they would never kill even their enemy with thought, word or action, they will live eternal life. Like Christ, they choose to die instead of attacking anybody or committing any sin against humanity. For this reason Peter was crucified head downward.

He knew exactly what he should have done to defend himself, but fighters will not stop fighting until they shed their blood because of sin. Anybody who uses the sword to kill, will also be killed with sword. This gospel is given to all those who use to say they wish they could see God to ask him

a question why men should die. This gospel is meant to answer the question by telling them that the reason why people die is that they commit murder either in thought, word or deed or any of the ways mentioned in this gospel. For, "with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Faith of the saints: Faith of the saints means having no gun, club-nothing whatsoever with which to protect yourself, but surrendering yourself completely to God to take care of. If you have such faith you would not say as many people are fond of saying that while God is protecting them, it is needful they protect themselves also. What a foolish statement! How can a man protect himself, if God alone does not protect him. We suffer most when we use ungodly means to protect and defend ourselves. It is then that we commit murder and die as murderers because defending ourselves means killing ourselves. Then we start to suspect our neighbours of poison, witchcraft, juju and such-like things.

We deceive ourselves. These things in themselves have no power for they do not exist at all. What exists which works to our detriment and death is the murder we commit everyday by thinking evil, doing or speaking evil, thereby committing murder and dying away everyday.

What we have done to others: So let nobody again say anything against God for whatever happens to him, for whatever we see on ourselves is what we have done to others. And our gospel has revealed that anybody who kills will be killed just the same way and by the same means he used. For what we sow we reap. God is a righteous judge. If we hear his word in this gospel and do it we shall have life everlasting. Whoever wants life should preserve the life of others. Whoever kills shall be killed. Who has ears let him hear, may God bless His Holy word. Amen.