

## THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE PEACEMAKERS

First Lesson: St Matthew 5:9

Second Lesson: St. Matthew 18:15-16

Golden Text: St. Luke 17:3-4

This is a very short anecdote that we are going to give to you. You are true witnesses to the fact that the words read out to you are the spoken words of Christ whom you claim to know. These words are not spoken by man but by Christ and God himself. All those who are the children of God are peacemakers. The children of God do not cause trouble; they are not angry; they do not quarrel with anyone and they are very plain and polite. The children of God are not trouble makers; they are not confusionists; they do not backbite; they do not tell lies; they do not steal and whatever situation will generate trouble the children of God are unconnected with it. How can you be a man of God when you are already a trouble maker? Why do you call yourself a man of God or a church goer when actually you are still sueing people to court. How are you a child of God when you refuse to reproach somebody who offends against you, but goes to plot evil against him? Our Lord Jesus Christ has shown us the shortest cut. Because he was peace-loving, He stayed in peace with us and with peace He taught the entire world to be peaceable with all men. He rules the world with peace. You cannot be a child of God if you are not a peacemaker. That is why it is said, blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

### WHEN YOU ARE OFFENDED REBUKE, REPROACH AND FORGIVE

At any point in time you discover that you have offended somebody be not shy to approach him. Go to him and confess and beg for forgiveness; tell him you have offended him that he should forgive you. If you carry out this advice it is more blessed to you and you are a child of God. The children of God do not harbour people in their minds; they do not begrudge; they do not blaspheme against any person; they do not frown; they do not quarrel and they are plain and open-minded. If you offend somebody you have to go and address him curtly, confessing and begging that he should forgive you. By so doing you are free. It is made known to us today what is meant by the children of God. The children of God are peacemakers. You are also told the channel through which you should pass and become a child of God. If your brethren offend you, go and meet him alone at his domain; point out his fault to him. Do not send words through people to him; do not curse him; do not make evil plans against him; do not get angry with him; but meet him face to face and sort out things amicably. That is what God has charged us to do. Do not pass the information to him through somebody, do not inform him of his offence by writing a letter; do not keep mute and harbour not the matter in mind. Do not get angry, but go and meet him alone. Do not go there in company of any person. Meet him alone and settle your scores. If you are a true child of God that is how you should live. When you are offended do not report your offender to any person; do not begrudge him; do not get angry; do not make any comment at all; do not impute sins on him. But the first and foremost thing is for you to go and meet him alone and point out his mistakes to him. As soon as the person will realise his offence and repent, you have to forgive him. That is the lifestyle of a man of God. This advice is for you, myself, all the churches, the governments and mankind, in order that we may practise and live in peace with one another. He has not sent this advice to women or men or infants or adults, Israelites or Greeks, Jews, blacks or whites, etc. but this injunction is meant for mankind and the angels, so that we may practise and become worthy children of God, and live in peace without quarrels and in-fighting. We have to live in peace as He has kept us. That is His divine instruction. If we do not abide in peace with all men it means we are not the children of God.

### THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE PEACE LOVING

If you are living with somebody, might be your wife, and you have offended her. You will find that instead of her to approach you and tell you what you have done, she will prefer reporting you to a third party outside the matrimonial home. She may decide to get angry or quarrel with you. In spite of these behaviours, it is this same woman who will pick up the Holy Bible on Sunday and leave for the church. What sort of church is she attending? The husband does the same thing. The same thing takes effect in families, churches, villages and between friends, etc. If you were to live in peace with people what would have brought about court and the idea of sueing people to

court? If this thing does not exist we would have lived in peace and harmony with one another and will be worthy children of God.

You can attest to the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ was out-spoken generally. At any point anyone went wrong he will reproach him. He was plain and treated every person with justice and fair play. People hated him because he pointed out their errors to them. Others loved him because he reproached many and sundry, so that they may change to God. All those who are the children of the world do not like to be reproached whenever they go wrong. The children of the world do not love peace. If you come across anybody who makes peace, realise that he is a child of God. But the children of the world do not welcome peace. Brethren we do not intend to take you far, let our first lesson be read.

#### **First Lesson: St. Matthew 5:9**

*"Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God."*

#### **ALWAYS REPENT AND BE FORGIVEN**

This explains why he tells us not to be angry with our brethren. Do not say to somebody, woe betide you. Do not say to any person, thou fool. If you bring your gift before the altar and rememberest that you have fought against your brother, leave your gift there, go and reconcile with your brother before you come and offer your gift. You have heard that blessed are the peacemakers. Go and make peace with your enemy while you are on the way. Because you are still on the way now and it is not yet dusk. If you and the entire world should hearken to this injunction and go to make peace things would have changed. God and confess to those you have offended knowingly and unknowingly. If you search the records at gospel centre vividly you will discover that I have delivered this gospel between 1983 and 1984 and I gave an instruction that it should be published and circulated to all parts of the world so that people could put it into fervent practise. I had also ordered a circular to be sent in that regard to all the inhabitants of the world to go and settle peace with their enemies. Whether somebody offended you knowingly or not, whether you offended somebody, go and settle such issue amicably with your foe and let there be peace. It is blessed unto the peacemakers. We are children of God and we have to make peace. There is no time left, for anybody to commit sin any longer. What sort of feud is it that two of you cannot settle it peaceably between yourselves? What sort of offence have you committed that you cannot be forgiven? Do not be ashamed of going to confess before somebody you have offended that he should forgive you. At any time you offend against anybody beg to be forgiven. Because a man of God seeks after peace. Always seek after peace for the brethren, the churches, the villages, the governments, etc. because blessed are the peacemakers since they are the children of God. A confusionist is not a child of God.

#### **CHRIST WAS PEACE LOVING**

When our Lord Jesus Christ arrived at a certain place where his disciples gathered, he asked Peter, who are those demanded to pay tax by the collectors? Is it the strangers or the indigenes? Peter replied that tax was demanded of the strangers and Christ said to Peter, so that we may not offend them, arise, get the hook and go to the river, the first fish you will catch open its mouth and you will find money; bring out the money and pay our tax. This shows how peaceful he was. He did not want any trouble.

## DO NOT OFFEND YOUR LANDLORD OR TENANT

If you are occupying somebody's apartment pay your rent accordingly. If you cannot pay your rent pack out of somebody's house to avoid trouble. In other words, if the money is not within your reach for the time being you have to go and plead with the landlord or landlady to bear with you for sometime pending when you will settle him or her. As a man of God, if your tenant owes you, get close to him and appeal curtly to him to pay the accumulated rent instalmentally. That is the way a man of God should behave. A man of God is not expected in this circumstance to sue his tenant to court or report him to people or send written messages, or send the information through a third party. If you behave this way it means, you have derailed from the way of God and are not a child of God. That is why this unique gospel is sent to the entire world this morning. It appears that the inhabitants of the world have forgotten the divine injunctions; that is why you are given this precious package today. Because Christ said, when he is come, even the Spirit of truth, he shall guide you into all truth and shall remind you all what I have taught you. All these words issue from the mouth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This injunction is meant for you and the entire world. It is also meant for the churches and mankind. We are taught how we can co-exist in peace and harmony. Put it to test. If you did not practise this injunction strive now to practise it. I am making this declaration from the highest heaven that you should go to your foes and make peace with them because you are a child of God. If your brethren offends against you, go to him, point out his mistakes before him. If he should repent, forgive him; by so doing you have saved him.

## THE CHILDREN OF GOD DO NOT COMMIT SIN

The children of God are peacemakers and they are not to commit sin. If you commit sin you are no longer a child of God. If you are angry you are not a child of God. If you do not forgive one another you are not a child of God. If you bear malice you are not a child of God. Because the children of God are peace-makers, and they look forward to seeing an atmosphere where people abide in peace, love and unceasing tranquility. If we have not done any other thing, from today, having heard this gospel you have to strive to practise it. If you hearken to this gospel you shall receive peace and shall be a child of God. the names of the churches you attend do not matter, the name you bear, your body pigmentation, and wherever you are does not matter. But if you practicalise this gospel it means you are a child of God.

## THE GOVERNMENT ALSO LEARN TO FORGIVE

Even in the government offices and other secular arrangements, you reserve no right to punish any of your subordinate or junior staff when he goes wrong. Whenever somebody offends it is given that you have to serve the person query pointing out the offence he has committed; if he should be sorry for what he has done, you have to forgive him. The operations of the government of the day is expected to go strictly according to the promptings of God; the medical doctors, lawyers and other professionals are also expected to follow suit. If people were to follow these guidelines there would have been no problem in the world. That is why in the government before anything is done a notice to that effect is given to you. If you cannot participate as was notified, you are queried. When you explain fervently to the clarity of the authority concerned you stand free. This explains why there must be a lawyer to defend you when you are sued to court. You have the right to argue your case in the court. If the government should grant such right to its citizens to defend themselves, what would you a man of God do to your brethren who offends against you? Should you refuse to talk to him, or be angry with him; or should you map out dangerous plans against him? Even with all these acts you claim to be a child of God. Realise that you are not. Since we call ourselves the children of God, let our second lesson be read so that you may realise the duty expected of you, myself and the entire world to carry out.

## Second Lesson: St. Matthew 18: 15–16

*“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone? If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the month of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”*

## **PREACH TO ALL TO ABIDE IN PEACE**

Have you now seen what makes you a child of God. If somebody trespass against you and you tell him his offence it means you are a man of God. All the children of God behave that way. They do not begrudge; they cannot judge any person and they do not plan evil against any person. No matter who trespasses against you, whether your father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, auntie, kinsman etc, tell him his error and if he should hear, forgive him.

This explains why our Lord Jesus Christ said through the mouth of our brother Paul, whenever any of the brethren trespass against thee reproach him before the people so that others who would have gone into the same path may withdraw. That is why Christ said, they hated me because I rebuked their evil ways of life. You are true witnesses to the fact that what I am telling you now is what is going on in the world. You have to go into various church denominations, prayer houses, governmental set ups; go to individuals and show to all the people their mistakes. If they should repent it means they are saved. There is no other court of justice apart from what you are hearing. We are anxiously questing for peace in the world. The highest court is the presence of God. If your brethren trespass against you, do not send a messenger, do not even get angry. Walk gently to where he is and greet him politely. Put his mistake across to him without a third party listening to two of you, resolve the peace between yourselves. That is the duty of a child of God. Have you seen me having any problem with any person at all? I am outspoken at all times. Whenever you go wrong I will tell you and that is the end of it.

## **ABHOR MALICE BUT WITH PEACE RESOLVE ALL FEUDS**

If you have not practised any other gospel endeavour to practise this gospel. There is no room for all the tricks and prangs you are trying to play. There is no room for such little gossips and anger you are used to. All the fellowships must practise this gospel also. I am making this declaration from the highest heaven that you should go and practise this gospel. Forget about bickering, frowning, craftiness, bearing of malice, etc. If you do these things you are not a man of God. A man of God does not behave so unseemingly. The work of God is the work of peace and the children of God are expected to abide in peace. Because our Lord Jesus Christ was peace loving and he teaches us peace and how to co-exist peaceably with all men. We must learn from Him how to live in peace and harmony, because no matter what you possess if you have not peace it means you are not a child of God and you have nothing in common with him.

Sometimes what you harbour in mind as the bone of contention may later be discovered as a less important issue which has no substance to have provoked your anger. Or that the other person has not offended you after all. When somebody offends you take it kindly. Do not hate him, do not send any letter to him; do not send a messenger. But approach him and speak to him peacefully and resolve the matter amicably, because it is more blessed to the peacemakers for they are the children of God.

## **REUNION CAUSED BY PEACE SETTLEMENT**

I want to use an earthly situation to illustrate an heavenly situation. There were once two kings. One of them was a juju doctor while the other one was a chief warrant officer in the court. A certain person went and told the juju doctor that the chief warrant officer has almost concluded arrangements to sue him to court. The same person went to the chief warrant officer and hinted that the juju doctor was seeking ways to kill him. Because of being ill-informed both of them (the chief warrant officer and the juju doctor) started fighting cold war with a bid to harm each other. They hated each other to an extent that if one sees the other coming he will save his life by disappearing into the nearest wood and vice versa, so that one may not harm another. They were plotting against each other ceaselessly. They were not church goers. But one fine day, the chief warrant officer readdressed himself "does it mean that I may stay like this and suddenly that juju doctor kills me for no just cause, what offence have I committed against him?" One day he was filled with the spirit. He rose and took a bottle of gin, and called one of his servants to escort him

to somewhere. He left as early as 5.00 am and set for the house of the juju doctor. On reaching there, he tapped carefully at the door. When the juju doctor heard the knock he responded by asking who his visitor was. The chief warrant officer mentioned his name. With great surprise the man inside the house asked, have you brought policemen to arrest me in my house? The chief warrant officer outside retorted, are you not seeking ways to kill me? I have come so that you may kill me at once. He (the chief warrant officer) continued, my brethren tells me that you want to kill me, what have I done to you? And the juju doctor alarmed from within, it is that your brethren who hinted me that you have almost concluded arrangements to sue me to court. Have you now seen how the door of peace was opened for the two kings to reunite. It is one person who caused that great pandemonium between two of them. At the end it became a thing of laughter and joy. They sought to kill each other at first but finally they resorted to peace making. Going to resolve peace with somebody is a small matter. It is as simple as ABC to settle peace with your offender if only you approach the person directly. Everything for a trial. If you practise this gospel it means you have no problem. Right now whatever type of offence somebody committed against you go and reconcile with him and if he repents, forgive him.

### **DO NOT BUILD YOUR FACT ON RUMOURS**

There are certain things people do unawares that have offended you. The moment you approach somebody peacefully and point out his errors he will reappraise himself and repent of his mistakes. There are certain things you will remind him which people told you he said but he will deny grossly having made such statements because he did not say them. The same thing is applicable in this kingdom. People are blaspheming against Brotherhood. If you should go to tell them the truth they will be sorry for themselves and will beg you to forgive them because they were misinformed. All the gossips and blasphemies prevalent in the world today is caused by the evil one. As people are accusing Brotherhood as being beelzebub, apparition, vampire etc, it is the duty of the Bishop, or Pope or Reverend or any other person to walk boldly into this place and ask, I am told you are worshipping beelzebub, where is he beelzebub? That is the way a man of God should behave. But unfortunately you remain where you are and build your blasphemies on hearsays and confirm them to be true thereafter you profess that you are a man of God. What manner of man of God are you? Face the fact squarely. Do not build your declarations on rumours. When Paul heard that Peter was eating things sacrificed unto idols and mermaids and because of that Barnabas ate with him. Paul went to Peter to find out things for himself. Peter was with our Lord Jesus Christ while Paul was not; neither did he know him whether he was a black or white. Peter stayed with Christ, ate with him; and moreover Christ handed the key of the gospel to him; the same Peter ate of things sacrificed unto idols and mermaid. Paul went from Antioch to Peter at Damascus and rebuked and reproached him that he taught people not to eat such things but he went contrary to his teachings. Because of this Peter redressed himself. That is the life style of a true Christian. It does not consist in bickering or gossiping, accusing or blaspheming. You have all seen the life-style of the Father.

### **I CONSTANTLY DECRY YOUR EVIL WAYS OF LIFE**

I continue to decry your ways of life. Because somebody may claim to be a Bishop but he is still drinking, fornicating, putting on rings in all his fingers and engaging in abomination. What I am telling you is the truth. John the Baptist told King Herod that for him to marry the wife of his half-brother was not advisable and told him most of his deeds which were not acceptable before the sight of God. That is the duty of a man of God. It is said, whoever knows that which is good and refuses to do, it becomes evil to him. As we are here, even though the government officials should come here, or all Nigerians or Africans; I have to point out their mistakes for them to correct themselves. Though I may do that I have nothing against anybody. The church is not expected to be an arena for confusion and trouble, and no man of God is expected to have any nut to crack with one another. It is meant that you call your brother to yourself and address him courteously pointing out his mistakes and finally settle the peace. There should be no anger, or gossiping. We have to live peaceably with one another. Heaven and earth and the fulness thereof belong to God. All what is God's is ours, and all of us are brethren. There is no problem. Let our Golden text be read.

Golden text be read.

## Golden Text: St. Luke 17:3-4

*"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother offend against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times, in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."*

### A CHILD OF GOD SHOULD ALWAYS SEEK TO KNOW WHY HE IS OFFENDED

Have you heard that? Have you practised what is read to you? You profess that you are a man of God. That is the duty of a child of God. If your brother offends against you, rebuke him, and if he repent, forgive him. And if he should offend against you seven times in a day and seven times turn again to you, saying, I repent, you have to forgive him. You do not have to do anything. It does not require court action or punishment of any kind. You do not have to report him to any person. You have to carry out this injunction because we are peace loving. But yet you claim to be a man of God, or a communicant, or pastor, bishop or church founder etc; and somebody offends against you, he repent and prostrate on the ground begging you to forgive him, but you swear never to forgive him. By so doing, what type of church goer are you? Which God are you worshipping? What manner of man of God are you if you cannot forgive one another. You find that somebody may offend against the church, instead of the authorities of that church to sort our things amicably with their member, they will rather excommunicate or suspend him from the church. And I ask, from where have you derived this type of teaching. Do not listen to one side of the story but always seek to know the bone of contention of both parties. Whenever you are told that a particular person said this or did that; it is your duty as a child of God to go and tell him his errors; if he should repent forgive him. The children of God must live peaceably with all men. A man of God must be peace-loving and must decry all things that could lead to trouble. Christ had never sued any person to court; he hated no person; but he taught us to be peaceable with all men.

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### "GO AND SIN NO MORE"

Because He is God he does not seek to know what a particular person is, because he knows what man is. That is why when the people brought a certain woman caught in the act of adultery to our Lord Jesus Christ and ask him, master, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery and the law of Moses demand that she should be stoned to death, what sayest thou? If Christ had ordered that the woman should be set free they would have accused him of breaking the law of Moses. Invariably if Christ had told them to cast stones at her, they will maintain that Christ ordered them to kill. Because he is truth and his words are true, he stooped down and began to write the names of all those people, their sins, and the dates such sins were committed. After writing on the ground their sins, he lifted up his eyes and said to them, if there is any one of you who is without sin let him first cast stones at this woman. When they looked down each man saw that his name, the sins he committed and the dates such sins were committed were discreetly written against him, he left quietly. In that way they all departed. God is capable of revealing all hidden things. And Christ, when he turned to the woman asked, woman where are thy accusers? She said, they have all gone. And Christ asked again, have they not condemned thee? She said yes. And Christ added, I have not also condemned thee, go and sin no more. That is the lifestyle of a man of God. When you are offended, rebuke whoever trespass against you. If he should repent, forgive him and forget whatever he did. Do not take any court action against him; do not harbour him in your mind; do not impute sins on him, do not be angry with him, do not punish him.

## THERE IS NO SIN ANY LONGER

You have to start a fresh new life. Forgive and forget. Because we are children of God, we have to be peace-loving. All what I am saying is for you. For myself I am declaring from the highest heaven that I have no problem with any person. I do not impute sins on any person. Because it is written, "this is the covenant I will enter into with the house of Israel after those days." Christ came and propitiated on our behalf and as soon as he said "It is finished" no sin is counted for any person again. No matter your utterances or deeds I do not impute sins on you neither do I query what is it you are doing and definitely there is no sin. I want you all to change. It is said, I will forgive them of their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Therefore your sins are not counted for you. Whether you call Brotherhood beelzebeb, apparition, vampire; or you give all sorts of names to Obu, I do not impute sins on you and you have not committed any sin in earnest. Christ said "It is finish" because of that you have to forgive every person. My sermon is directed to you who continue to find fault for people. At one corner you will stay and gossip, O! that man has done this or that to me. As of myself, whatever you like to say against me you are free to go ahead but what I know is that you have not committed any sin.

## THE GREAT CHALLENGE

Since 14th February, 1942 I challenged the world that, if there is any person in heaven or on earth who can cause me to be annoyed I will give him a handsome reward. But until today nobody has countered this challenge. What would you say about somebody who speaks in this manner? There is absolutely nothing you can do to annoy me. Peter ask our Lord Jesus Christ, how many times shall my brother trespass against me and I forgive him, is it seven times? And Christ answered I have not said seven times, but seven times seventy times. It means that you should not impute sins on anybody. Whoever impute sins on any person does he believe in Christ? Why did he have to die on the Cross? He propitiated so that we may not impute sins any longer on one another. But now you are doing the contrary and yet you profess, O! Jesus, thou good friend of man! I charge that you should shut up your mouth. As I have realised the reasons for which he died have you seen me imputing sins on people? Christ died for the sake of our sins. That is why whatever you do is termed good.

## BOTHER NOT IF YOU ARE FALSELY ACCUSED

Right from today whenever somebody trespass against you whether seven or hundred times in a day, rebuke him and if he repents, forgive him. Do not forget that Christ said, "it is finish". If you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ came and shed his precious blood for the remission of our sins, why do you continue to impute sins on people? If you approach somebody and point out his mistake you are foiling his subsequent misdeeds which would have come up, but not with any motive to declare him a sinner. As a man of God when you are offended, you have to rebuke your offender, if he repent, forgive him. If somebody trespass against you do not bear grudge against him; do not even impute sins on him; purify your heart as a child of God. Be peaceable with all men. If there are people who blasphemed or accused Brotherhood of having perpetrated any evil act and later they repent but expressed that Brotherhood will harm them in any way because of their previous false accusations, I want you to remember when Christ said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do". Because of this statement, you are all forgiven because you were ignorant of what you said and did. I have long forgiven every person; I give my warm embrace to every person at all times; because you have not committed any sin. The fact remains that since all the inuendoes have nothing in common with my life style I am not bothered in any way. And since all what you are saying is not true, I develop cold feet towards your blasphemy. If you are not a thief but somebody calls you a thief why should you be bothered? You do not have to be worried, and you should be in good terms with every body.

Brethren, one stroke of the cane is sufficient unto the wise. We do not intend to take you further. He who has ears let him hear. May God bless his Holy words. Amen.

THANK YOU FATHER'