

ROMANS 47 – WHAT WOULD JESUS DO {WWJD}?

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ROMANS 12:11-21

PROLOGUE: WHAT IS LOVE?

- METAPHOR: WHAT IS HEAT? TO SAY THAT IT IS ENERGY DOES NOT DEFINE HEAT; ONE CAN ONLY KNOW HEAT BASED ON ITS REPEATABLE AND MEASURABLE EFFECTS
 - LOVE CANNOT NOT BE DEFINED EXCEPT BY ITS EFFECTS ALSO; IT IS RADIATED BY GOD TO THE SAVED WHO FURTHER RADIATE LOVE INTO THE WORLD; LIGHT OF THE WORLD (MATT 5:14-16; 130 A&B; 16-17)
 - PAUL'S QUINTESSENTIAL DEFINITION OF LOVE DOES NOT DEFINE LOVE BUT DESCRIBES WHAT LOVE PRODUCES IN THE MATURING BELIEVER THAT OTHERS OBSERVE (1 COR 13:4-8; 13; 2A 3:14-18)
 - ONE CANNOT FORCE ONE'S SELF TO DISPLAY GOD'S LOVE; THIS IS WORKS AND NOT CHARISMA OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT – WORTHLESS (20 A&B; 3:4)
 - WHAT IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING LOVE, THOUGH IT IS IMPLIED WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE WHOLE BODY OF SCRIPTURE, IS EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE (20 A&B)

PROLOGUE: MARRIAGE – METAPHOR OF CHRIST'S AGAPE

(27 5:23-6:4)

- GOD, VIA PAUL, CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN WAS ALWAYS THE METAPHOR ILLUSTRATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN: GOD AND ISRAEL AND CHRIST AND HIS BODY (CHURCH IN FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION)
 - WIVES SUBMIT TO THEIR HUSBANDS, AS TO CHRIST, RECOGNIZING THAT HUSBANDS ARE THE METAPHOR FOR CHRIST, BY DOING THIS THEY ARE SUBMITTING TO CHRIST (1:10 4:20-21; 17E 3:1-6)
 - HUSBANDS, AS THE METAPHOR FOR CHRIST, ARE TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS CHRIST LOVES HIS BODY AND DIED FOR EACH BELIEVER; I.E., HUSBANDS ARE TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEY LOVE THEIR BODIES FOR NO ONE HATES HIS OWN BODY; NOR ARE THEY TO RULE IN ANGER AS TYRANTS
 - CHILDREN ARE TO RESPECT AND OBEY AS ARE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS MATURING IN CHRIST

PROLOGUE: PHILADELPHIA – WOMEN

- BEST EXAMPLE OF PHILADELPHIA IS THE SOLOQUY GIVEN BY RUTH TO NAOMI (RU 1:6-18)
 - NAOMI, A JEWESS WHO LOST HER HUSBAND AND BOTH SONS IN MOAB, WAS RETURNING TO ISRAEL FOLLOWED BY HER SONS' TWO WIVES, SHE TELLS THEM TO REMAIN IN MOAB, FIND NEW HUSBANDS AND RESTART THEIR LIVES – ONE RETURNS TO IDOLATRY, RUTH REFUSES
 - RUTH STAYS BECAUSE SHE FOUND GOD THROUGH NAOMI AND WILL NOT REMAIN IN A LAND WITHOUT GOD, THUS, SHE NOT ONLY REJECTS EVIL, SHE CLINGS TO GOOD TO FULFILL HER LIFE
 - WITHOUT PROMISE OF SUPPORT, BOTH RETURN TO ISRAEL THOUGH NAOMI, PLEASANT, NOW CALLS HERSELF MARA, BITTER; RUTH, FRIENDSHIP, STICKS CLOSER THAN A RELATIVE (PS 130:8)
 - FROM HER PHILADELPHIA CAME DAVID AND CHRIST, THE FRIEND OF All, SAVED (JO 15:13-15)

NO RULES TO LIVE BY...

- NEW CHRISTIANS, AND IMMATURE BELIEVERS, SEEK RULES TO GOVERN BEHAVIORS AND SIMPLIFY CHOICES BUT RULES ULTIMATELY FAIL, JUSTIFYING THE FLESH, MOVEMENT YEARS AGO POPULARIZED THIS THIRST FOR RULES, "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?" (WWJD) (COE 2:20-23)
 - GOD'S MORAL LAW AND THE JEWISH RESPONSE SHOWED THAT FOLLOWING A RULE-BASED PHILOSOPHY DOES NOT BRING SALVATION, OR GODLY WISDOM, RATHER, IT STRENGTHENS THE FLESH TURNING ONE AGAINST GOD BY ELEVATING SELF: ESSENCE OF WORKS (PS 51:16-18, RD 4:11)
 - CHRIST'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT SHOWED HOW THE MORAL LAW WAS DESIGNED TO LEAD ONE TO GOVERN ONE'S BEHAVIOR BY DISCERNMENT, EXPERIENTIALLY RECOGNIZING AND REJECTING EVIL WHILE CHOOSING GOOD, THAT IS WHAT JESUS DID VIA THE SPIRIT (MT 5:17-48, HE 8:11-14)

GENUINE AGAPE IS DOING, NOT SAYING

- PAUL CONTINUES TO DESCRIBE HOW HATING THE EVIL AND BEING GLUED TO THE GOOD LOOKS IN ONE'S LIFE, NOTICE, BEING GLUED TO GOOD IS IN THE PASSIVE VOICE, IT OCCURS OUTSIDE OF SELF, IT IS THE CHARISMA OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH US
 - WHAT FOLLOWS IS A SERIES OF DIRECT OBJECTS THAT FLOW FROM THE ACTIVE REJECTION OF EVIL, DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL, BUT BE INSTRUCTED IN GOOD BY THE SPIRIT (RO 12:21, 1CO 2:14)
 - IN ENGLISH THESE ARE PRESENTED AS BULLETS; IN THE GREEK THEY ARE SEPARATED BY COMMAS
 - THUS, GIVING HONOR (TIMH) TO OTHERS WHICH IS POSSIBLE ONLY BY THE CHARISMA OF THE SPIRIT AND LEADS THIS LIST OF WHAT CHRISTIANITY LOOKS LIKE, ESPECIALLY AS ONE MATURES

DIRECTED EMOTIONS

- ONE OF THE HARDEST CONCEPTS TO GRASP IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EMOTIONALISM OF THE FLESH AND ZEALOUSNESS, FIRE, OF THE SPIRIT
 - NEW CHRISTIANS ARE OFTEN HASTY, BUT THEY HAVE NEITHER THE DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING NOR THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SPIRIT TO DISCERN HASTE FROM ZEAL
 - FLESH IS THOROUGHLY DECEITFUL SEEKING TO SUBSTITUTE HASTE IN LIEU OF ZEALOUSNESS WHICH RESULTS IN TROUBLE RATHER THAN WISDOM (JE 17:9)
 - ONLY UNDER THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SPIRIT CAN ONE TRULY BE ZEALOUS AND NOT SIN (DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PATIENCE, MACROTHYMA, AND LUST, HYPERTHYMA)
 - HASTE SERVES SELF, HYPOMENE (STEADFAST) ZEAL SERVES CHRIST (BOUGHT BY CHRIST) (RO 8:5-6, 1CO 7:31-33)

MARKS OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

- SERVING CHRIST VIA THE SPIRIT, RESTING IN HIM, PRODUCES THESE MATURATION QUALITIES
 - CALMNESS THAT COMES FROM THE HOPE INHERENT IN SALVATION BASED ON CHRIST (JE 6:17-20)
 - STEADFAST OR ENDURANCE IN TRIBULATION RATHER THAN PANIC AND WAILS OF ANGER
 - CONSISTENCY IN PRAYER, ALWAYS LOOKING TO THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF FAITH (JE 1:1-3)
- THIS INNER CALM IS PRODUCED BY RESTING IN CHRIST AND DIFFERENTIATES CHRISTIANS BY (MT 11:28-30)
 - CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS, BODY SENDING HELP TO PARTS IN NEED
 - SHOWING LOVE TO STRANGERS, HOSPITALITY (DIAKOEENIA, PHILO-XENIA) (JK 13:47)
- THESE QUALITIES DIFFERENTIATE AND ATTRACT UNSETTLED LOST WHO SEEKING HOPE (JH 6:13,17)

PAUL FOLLOWS CHRIST'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

- FROM THESE QUALITIES PAUL BEGINS TO BUILD TOWARD HIS NEXT MAJOR TOPIC AND FOLLOWS CHRIST'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT: "HOW CAN ONE TAKE THE GOSPEL INTO THE WORLD WHEN ONE IS AT WAR WITH THE WORLD, WHO WOULD LISTEN?" (MT 5:43-44)
 - MATURE BELIEVER RECOGNIZES THAT WE DO NOT FIGHT AGAINST PEOPLE BUT AGAINST SPIRITUAL POWERS, SATAN AND DEMONS, ARRAYING THEMSELVES AGAINST GOD (EP 6:10-13, 20E 6)
 - THEREFORE, WE DO NOT CURSE OR FIGHT THE LOST, WHICH IS RETURNING EVIL FOR EVIL; WE ARE COMMANDED TO REFLECT CHRIST'S MERCY TOWARD THEM AS HE DID TOWARD US (JK 20:12)
 - THERE IS NO BATTLE, CHRIST WON THE WAR AT CALVARY; THERE IS THE ONLY THE GOSPEL SO THOSE WHO HEAR CAN BE SAVED EVEN AS WE WERE SAVED BY THE WORD (JO 3:16-21, EP 5:25-27)

SHARING ONE'S FAITH RESPONSIBLY

- SHARING ONE'S FAITH IS NOT DIFFICULT, THOUGH IT MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED BY OTHERS; BUT WHEN IT IS SHARED IN THE COMMON EXPERIENCES OF LIFE OTHERS SEE THE DIFFERENCE
 - WHEN OTHERS ARE HAPPY ABOUT THE COMMON GRACE RECEIVED IN LIFE WE CALMLY REJOICE {ΧΑΙΡΩ} WITH THEM, LOST AND SAVED, AS THIS REJOICING FLOWS FROM SPIRIT (GRACE) (MT 5:43-48)
 - WHEN PEOPLE EXPERIENCE THE GRIEF COMMON TO ALL, CHRISTIANS CAN WEEP WITH THEM IN THEIR LOSS SHOWING THEM THAT CHRIST CARES ABOUT THEM AS HE EXPERIENCED LOSS {LAZARUS} (JO 11:33-35)
 - THIS IS "BEING IN THE WORLD" BUT "NOT OF THE WORLD" (JO 17:14-16, 20; 1CO 5:9-10)
 - HOWEVER, WE MUST TAKE CARE NOT TO BE OVERCOME BY THE WORLD (2PE 2:19-20; 1JO 4:4-5)

BALANCE OF CHRISTIAN MATURITY

- HARMONY {ΦΡΟΝΕΩ, PHRONEO} (ESV) CARRIES A MUCH DEEPER CONNOTATION IN GREEK
 - PHRONEO IS A BALANCED LIFE BASED ON DISCERNMENT (HE 5:11-14)
 - REFERS TO PAUL'S BASIS FOR CHRISTIAN MATURITY; REJECTING EVIL AND BEING GLUED TO GOOD IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT
 - MATURING CHRISTIAN IS NOT OVERCOME BY THE WORLD BECAUSE HE, SHE, EXPERIENTIALLY LEARNS TO REJECT EVIL BY GROWTH IN THE WORD OF GOD BY THE SPIRIT (DISCERNMENT)
 - QUINTESSENTIAL EXAMPLE OF THE CHURCH WHICH CONSTANTLY SUCCEMBED TO THE WORLD WAS CORINTH; MANY OF TODAY'S CHURCHES FOLLOW CORINTH'S EXAMPLE EMBRACING THE PHILOSOPHIES OF THE WORLD AND REJECTING THE GOSPEL OF SALVATION; WAY OF SINNERS

OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF MATURITY

- PAUL, IN STACCATO FASHION, GIVES SEVERAL EXAMPLES OF DISCERNING BALANCE IN LIFE
 - REFUSAL TO BE SEDUCED BY THE WORLDLY POWERFUL BY KNOWING HOW TO BE ABASED AS CHRIST (WHEN HE CAME AS HUMBLE SLAVE OF GOD) (1CO 1:26-29; PH 2:3-8; 4:11-13; JA 2:1-9)
 - ONE'S SINFUL WORLDVIEW MUST BE REJECTED AS IT ALWAYS SEEKS TO MAKE YOU THE HERO OF YOUR OWN STORY WHICH MEANS CHRIST MUST DECREASE; THUS, TRIALS TO MAKE ONE WISE
 - DO NOT REPAY EVIL WITH EVIL; THE CHRISTIAN REPAYS EVIL WITH THE GOOD {ΚΑΛΩΣ} THAT THE SPIRIT HAS DEVELOPED IN ONE'S LIFE VIA THE HAGIAZO PROCESS; WE ARE STRANGERS (HE 11:13-14)
 - THUS, CHRIST COMMANDS EACH CHRISTIAN TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS IN SO FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU; THIS IS MATURITY, FAR VIEW (MT 5:39-41)

DO NOT AVENGE EVIL

- WORLD LIVES BY A VIOLENT CODE THAT WRONG MUST BE AVENGED; HOWEVER, VIOLENCE ONLY BEGETS VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION; BASIS OF MOST ENTERTAINMENT
 - SLAVE NOT ALLOWED TO AVENGE HIS, HER, WRONG BUT TRUSTED IN THE MASTER TO AVENGE THEM; THIS IS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER (RD 6:15-18; 1CO 6:18-20)
 - CHRIST TRUSTED THE FATHER AND HIS SOUL WAS SECURED THROUGH HIS FLESH WAS SACRIFICED
 - WE ARE TO DO THE SAME KNOWING THAT WE ARE OFFERINGS BEING CONSUMED SO THAT WE STAND BEFORE CHRIST'S BEMA SEAT WITHOUT SHAME (1CO 3:15-16; 2CO 5:10; 1PE 3:21-22)
 - GOD WILL REPAY THE LOST FOR THEIR SIN AGAINST HIM; THE LOST DO NOT SIN AGAINST US WHO ARE BUT SAVED SINNERS (DE 32:35; PS 94:1-2; MT 23:21-46; RE 20:7-11)

IF YOUR ENEMY IS...

- PAUL QUOTES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOWING CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A NEW FAITH BUT A MATURATION OF THE SAME FAITH GIVEN TO ABRAHAM (PE 23:21-22; RD 4:20-22)
 - DOING GOOD TO THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST YOU, THE LOST BOTH PASSIVELY AND ACTIVELY, THIS SWITCHES ACCOUNTABILITY FROM YOU, FOR YOU ARE IMITATING CHRIST, TO THEM WHO WILL HAVE NO ANSWER JUSTIFYING THEIR ACTIONS (MT 23:31-48)
 - HOWEVER, IF THE CHRISTIAN SEEKS HIS, HER, OWN VENGEANCE THEN THE JUDGMENT OF GOD FALLS ON US AND WE WILL HAVE FAR LESS EXCUSE SINCE WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT THE TRUTH
 - GOD DOES NOT TEACH US HIS WORD FOR NOTHING; EACH OF US WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR EVERY UNCONFERSED SIN SINCE SALVATION (MT 13:24-37; GA 6:7-10)

PAUL ENDS WITH A WARNING

- PAUL'S CONCLUSION HARKENS BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEGMENT, HATE EVIL AND BE GLUED TO GOOD; "DO NOT BE OVERCOME BY EVIL BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD"
 - IF ONE TAKES UP THE WEAPONS OF THE BEAST, ONE IMITATES THE BEAST BECOMING THE ANIMAL THAT ONE WAS BEFORE SALVATION; SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST; VIOLENCE AND DEGRADATION
 - EVIL CAN ONLY BE OVERCOME BY GOOD AS IT SHOWS THE STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN GOD'S GOODNESS AND EVIL'S ABSOLUTE CORRUPTION
 - USING VIOLENCE TO BRING PEACE IS THE ILLOGIC OF SINNERS; IT'S LIKE CLAIMING THAT WAR, DESTRUCTION, BRINGS ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, GROWTH; INSANITY (JA 3:13-18)

EPILOGUE: NO RULES TO LIVE BY...

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CHARGING THE GATES OF HELL...

- THIS COMMON EUPHEMISM IS A MISREPRESENTATION OF SCRIPTURE (MT 16:13-18)
 - FIRST REFERENCE TO THE COMING CALLED OUT ASSEMBLY (ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ EKKLESIA), CHURCH
 - PLAY ON GREEK WORDS, COMMON IN HEBRAIC SCRIPTURE
 - PETER (ΠΙΕΤΡΟΣ, PETROS): LITTLE STONE
 - CHRIST: LARGE STONE (ΠΙΕΤΡΑ, PETRA) REFERENCING BACK TO DANIEL; ROCK CUT OUT WITHOUT HANDS DESTROYING SATAN'S KINGDOM EFFORTS IN THIS CREATION (DA 2:31-45)
 - CHRISTIANS ARE TOLD TO STAND, STAND, STAND (HYPOMENE); NEVER CHARGE (EP 4:10-12)
 - MILITANT CHRISTIANITY IS WEAK FAITH SEEKING WORKS TO PLEASE GOD; USING WAYS OF THE WORLD WHICH DESTROYS ONE'S MATURATION (1S 5:5-8)

DO YOU HAVE GOD'S WISDOM?

- YOUR BEHAVIOR REVEALS WHETHER YOU POSSESS THE WISDOM OF GOD OR THE FOOLISHNESS OF SIN WHICH MASQUERADES AS WISDOM BUT STRENGTHENS THE FLESH (1A 3:13-18)
 - MATURE FAITH IS MEEK, BESTING IN CHRIST PRODUCING GODLY PEACE; BEATITUDES (MT 5:3-12)
 - IMMATURE FAITH IS LARGELY SIN, SPRINGING FROM JEALOUSY AND SELFISH AMBITION (COVETOUSNESS), PRODUCING INNER TURMOIL (1A 4:1-4)
 - GOD NOR THE WORLD IS FOOLED; ONE SEEKS DOMINANCE RATHER THAN OBTAINING A HARVEST THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO CHRIST; THIS WAS THE ERROR OF JUDAISM
 - PAUL WROTE THESE WORLDS HAVING SUFFERED FOR THE FAITH (2CO 1:23-31)

JUDGE YOURSELF SO YOU MAY NOT BE JUDGED (1CO 11:31-32)

- THIS IS THE ULTIMATE MARK OF MATURITY AS CHRIST EXPLAINED IN THE MOUNT SERMON (MT 7:1-2)
 - BELIEVERS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE SINCE WE BELONG TO HIM AND ACT IN HIS NAME (MT 28:14-20)
 - WHEN ONE WORKS WITH THE SPIRIT ONE EXHIBITS THESE MARKS OF MATURITY WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN THIS LESSON BECAUSE THEY SPRING FROM ONE'S NEW NATURE (1A 3:20)
 - WHEN ONE QUENCHES THE SPIRIT, ONE'S SINFUL MINDSET RISES; BUT IT DOES NOT SATISFY AS THE NEW NATURE DESIRES THE WILL OF CHRIST; SPIRIT DISCIPLINES YOU [E YOU ARE SAVED] (1E 1:3-6)
 - LIVING IN SIN PROMOTES THE FLESH WHICH IS AT WAR WITH THE SPIRIT; THUS, ONE LOSES INNER PEACE UNTIL ONE CONFESSES ONE'S SIN AND RETURNS TO CHRIST; "DO YOU HAVE PEACE?"