

# **chapter eleven**

## *Let Go and Let God*

*History belongs to those who pray.*

## Chapter Eleven- Let Go and Let God

Notes

When dealing with issues among the people of God, often there is a tendency to “just pray about it” rather than to take action.

Prayer is not an excuse to be passive about a situation that needs to be addressed.

Most often, when we pray and incline our ears toward the LORD, we receive explicit instruction about the next step.

Leadership in the local church requires both law and mercy.

Frequently, believers are looked down on when they judge a situation that should be judged or deal with the situation by establishing boundaries instead of just letting people do whatever they want to do.

God loves mercy, but He is also a God of justice.

Be merciful, but do not be disobedient to the LORD and show mercy in a situation when you should not.

This entire book was written in the hope that people will be roused to prayer, yet I want to include a chapter to warn you to obey the LORD’s voice when He tells you to let go of a situation.

Disobedience will bring us great struggle in our lives, and we need to be obedient to the voice of the LORD.

Most Christians are full of mercy, and even the thought of refraining in prayer seems sacrilegious!

You might be shocked when I tell you that I have given this counsel at times. The LORD spoke to Jeremiah, instructed him not to pray:

***“Therefore, don’t pray for this people. Don’t lift up a cry or prayer for them or make intercession to me; for I will not hear you.”***

(Jeremiah 7:16 WEB)

There is another reference where Moses asked God to let him see the promised land:

***“Please let me go over and see the good land that is beyond the Jordan, that fine mountain, and Lebanon.” But Yahweh was angry with me because of you and didn’t listen to me. Yahweh said to me,***

***“That is enough! Speak no more to me of this matter.”***

(Deuteronomy 3:25-27 WEB)

Sometimes our own desires can get in the way of the will of God in our life.

As we pray, we should be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

There comes a time when we can actually stand in the way of God's justice.

*Unsanctified mercy is mercy not authorized by God.*

Sometimes we may become driven by mercy for someone whom God has determined to bring judgment upon.

The leaders of the Corinthian church had it all backward. They were judgmental toward the lifestyles of those out in the world and merciful toward the lifestyles of those in the church.

Paul corrected them by saying:

***For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside*** (1 Corinthians 5:12-13).

I believe that if leadership does not judge sin in the church they govern, judgment will fall on the entire congregation.

If the leadership judges the individual who is sinning, judgment falls only on the individual.

***When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord*** (1 Corinthians 5:4).

Pray then act justly.

Some relationships or situations may be toxic to us, and we may need to let that prayer assignment be for someone else.

***The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king"*** (1 Samuel 16:1).

Many people are stuck in prayer and mourning for some people who will only be awakened through the judgment of God!

There are times when we are praying for people that God has authorized us to release.

Our prayers for a person or situation may be deemed unauthorized in the realm of heaven.

As we pray for an unauthorized situation, we are inviting anxiety, fear and an unhealthy emotional connection to a person or situation.

King Ahab was once given instructions to put to death an enemy of Israel.

Instead, King Ahab showed mercy to his enemy and let him live.

Ahab's failure to obey God would later bring destruction upon those whom he governed.

A prophet rebuked Ahab saying:

***You have set free a man I had determined should die. Therefore it is your life for his life, your people for his people*** (1 Kings 20:42).

Is it possible that we could be hindering the will of God by continuing to mourn and pray for some people? You may need to let go of that person and move forward. *You may be standing in the way of God's judgment and in the process, experiencing judgment on your life as a consequence!*

Ask the LORD if you should stop praying and mourning over someone and obey what He tells you. Seek counsel in this decision and consider what you have read in light of God's Word. There may be a time when the LORD changes your prayer assignment.

You and I should seek to have a complete view of justice from a Biblical standpoint.

The LORD loves justice, so each of us should aim to have a fuller concept of God's justice.

Justice is always two-fold: compensation for the righteous and punishment for the wicked.

Unfortunately, many Christians view God's justice only from the perspective that He punishes the wicked. Having a one-sided view of justice limits us from coming to Him.

The LORD's primary motivation for justice is to bring compensation to the righteous and to reward them for their labor.

Injustice creates a sense of unbalance in the heart of God and in our hearts as well. Through prayer, we can release the justice of God here on earth.

The kingdom of God burns with justice! Jesus is the Son of God and is uniquely positioned to bring the kingdom of God to earth.

He is the Prince of Peace, and where there is injustice, there is not peace. Peace cannot be present in the absence of justice.

The tension in almost all movies, books, and dramas is a journey from injustice to justice. The standard plot of virtually every movie is the introduction of the characters, followed by a conflict, which is then followed by a resolution.

At the end, the good guy receives a reward, and the bad guy gets punished. This is called justice.

The unresolved conflict is what stirs our emotions during the movie. If the movie ends without justice, our hearts leave unsatisfied and discouraged.

Inside of the heart of every man and woman, there is a scale of justice.

Some people are more justice driven than others. One of the dangers of justice-driven people can be they have scales that are not accurate or honest.

They will seek justice in a situation because they assume there is injustice, when in fact, their scale is broken.

Of all these professions, the merchant and the trader were the main occupiers of the gates.

The merchant's primary tools of the trade were scales, weights, measures, and a pouch.

Their business was buying and selling.

Their weights and measures determined the length, weight, or capacity of what was to be sold or purchased.

In a culture that lacked a bureau of weights and measures, cheating in business transactions was a common practice. But the Lord commanded His people to be honest in business:

1. ***“The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight”*** (Proverbs 11:1)
2. ***“Honest scales and balances are from the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making”*** (Proverbs 16:11)
3. ***“Differing weights and differing measures—the Lord detests them both”*** (Proverbs 20:10)
4. ***“The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him”*** (Proverbs 20:23)

There is only one standard weight or measure, as there is only one standard of truth.

A dishonest merchant will use an accurate weight when buying for himself; but when selling to another, he will use an inaccurate one.

Jesus pointed to the Pharisees, saying: ***“But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach”*** (Matthew 23:3).

The standard the Pharisees used on others differed from the norm they applied to themselves.

***Do not have two differing weights in your bag—one heavy, one light. Do not have two differing measures in your house—one large, one small. You must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. For the Lord detests anyone who does these things, anyone who deals dishonestly*** (Deuteronomy 25:13-16).

Equal weights and measures can also be applied to judging others.

Jesus said, ***“For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”*** (Matthew 7:2).

James also spoke of this concept, saying: ***“... judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful”*** (James 2:13).

Differing weights and measures in the church—or better labeled, hypocrisy—may well be the most harmful poison to the Body of Christ.

Jesus warned his disciples, ***“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy”*** (Luke 12:1)

Paul said to the Corinthians, “...that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough” (1 Corinthians 5:6).

The book of Psalms declares: “**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne**” (Psalms 97:2) and also, “**For the LORD loves justice...**” (Psalms 37:28).

Justice is the foundation of the throne of God and a love of His heart. Injustice brings displeasure to His heart.

*Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice*  
(Isaiah 59:13-16).

Yahweh longs for His people to act when there is injustice because His goodness is directly connected to His justice.

When justice is executed, the goodness of God is made full. “**He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD**” (Psalms 33:5).

We are called to bring justice to the earth through action and through prayer.

David was pleading with his God to bring justice into his world through prayer.

*Now, Lord, let your anger arise against the anger of my enemies.  
Awaken your fury and stand up for me! Decree that justice be done  
against my foes.*  
(Psalm 7:6-7 TPT).

*For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed* (Acts 17:31).

“**And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment**” (Hebrews 9:27).

If you are born twice, you will die once. When you are born again, you will not have to face the second death.

In the book of James (Jacob), he writes, “**Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law**” (James 2:12).

Many Christians have been taught that law and grace are in opposition and conclude that grace is good, and the law is bad. The apostle Paul said, "***Now we know that the law is good...***" (1 Timothy 1:8) and also "***...I delight in the law of God...***" (Romans 7:22).

King David said of a righteous person, "***...his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.***"

To conclude that the law is bad and in opposition to grace will lead to lawlessness.

Titus 2:14 says that Jesus, "***...gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness.***"

The New Testament understanding of law and grace is this: the law is good, but the law cannot save you. The deception comes when we put our trust in the law to bring us into relationship with the Father instead of trusting in the blood of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

He writes in Galatians 3:10, "***For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse.***"

Today, be released from this curse by putting your trust in Christ alone for your salvation and then allow Christ to redeem you from all lawlessness.

The Bible warns us in Matthew 24:12 "***...lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.***"

Using grace as an excuse to be lawless is not a biblical plan, as if grace and law were opposing forces. Love His statutes and His grace.

Delight in His grace and His commandments so that your heart burns bright in this dark world.

Waiting for the justice of God to come in a situation is quite difficult at times.

But we must remember that if justice came at the moment of every offense, you and I would probably not be alive.

All of us, one day will be judged for what we did and did not do. Sobering but true.

***Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.*** (1 Peter 1:17).



Knowing one day, every motive of our heart will be judged, we should live each day with the end in mind. The Hebrew word “aharit” means what is coming in the end.<sup>1</sup>

David was weary over the seemingly blessed lives of those who were lawless, “...until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end (the aharit)” (Psalm 73:17).

We must have a sense of urgency to warn others of the coming judgment.

***“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison (Matthew 5:25).***

Jesus is our lawyer, our middle-man, and our legal defense.

When we are in trouble, we need to lawyer up.

A lawyer provides for us the protocol that we might be made righteous in the eyes of the court. But our motives must be pure for those who will be exposed as well.

***Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time, each will receive their praise from God (1 Corinthians 4:5).***

In the book of Zechariah, we see an accuser being rebuked by the Lord and a man being made righteous in a courtroom setting. This scripture is a picture of what is happening in the courtroom of Heaven. Satan is accusing every person on this planet, seeking the right to judge them according to their lawless deeds.

***Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him... Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” (Zechariah 3:1,3-4).***

Prayer is letting go and letting God.

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<sup>1</sup> Zodhiates, Spiros, and John R. Kohlenberger. *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible: New International Version*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Pub., 1996. 1503.

When we are anxious, prayer allows us to cast our cares upon Him because He cares for us.

Be aware of situations where you might be enabling a situation, assuming a place of intercession instead of a place of rest and letting go.

Always leave room for the justice of God Jesus taught his disciples to always pray and don't give up *until the answer comes*.

*Notes*