

GOD GIVES PERFECT GIFTS

By Rev. Christine Meier

Like most families, Christmas is a treasured and awesome time in the Lord. This year it was even more so for us. We had two separate bouts of healing take place. One concerned my husband and one concerned me. On Christmas Eve my husband said to me that the Lord told him he was getting a Christmas present. True enough, a healing took place. I had received healing as well for an issue. For almost a week before and during Christmas I was fine. Two days after Christmas my husband said, "Well, the Lord said he was giving me a Christmas present and things have been fine, but now they seem to be starting up again." That struck me as odd. I turned to him and said, "Yeah, but a Christmas present doesn't last for two days. Even a crummy kids toy lasts longer than that. And what about Christmas gifts that last for years and even decades?" My husband agreed.

That's when a portion of Scripture I had quoted and waged war with for years popped into my head. I turned to him and said, "Don't let that thief steal the healing. That's a lie that God only gives a Christmas present for two days." I told him the thief had to pay him back for anything he tried to steal. Shortly thereafter, my own healing started to wane. When I received healing I knew immediately God had healed me. The initial manifestation was profound. I was not about to give it up and I wasn't about to give up my husband's gift either. That's because what affects me affects him and vice versa. (Genesis 2:24, Mark 10:8)

Anywhere from ten to fifteen years ago, the Lord had given me

several portions of Scripture for when a thief tries to take something God has given to a believer. For years I shared it with those the Lord gave me the privilege of ministering to. I learned to fight the good fight with those Scriptures for my own life. Over the years, I received other portions of Scripture which helped me to understand how to wage warfare with those words. I also learned how to keep my mouth shut and only come in agreement with God's word for me and the lives of others. As time went on, the need to "get back my stuff" from the enemy kind of disappeared. It's almost as if he got tired of having to give me back what he stole.

Then this Christmas experience occurred. It's then when I realized I had actually forgotten all that warfare because of the peace and tranquility we had experienced for some time. Some of the Scriptures the Lord gave me over the years are Exodus 22:1-13; Proverbs 6:31; Proverbs 13:21; Proverbs 30; Psalm 79:12; 2 Samuel 12:1-12; Isaiah 54:17; Luke 19:1-10; John 10:1-18; Romans 11:29. A perusal of these portions of Scripture would have most Christians screaming that I am trying to follow the Mosaic Law and not grace and truth in Jesus Christ. If I were demanding thieves to be judged according to these Scriptures, I would agree; but that is not my intention. I give you these to see the mindset and understanding within them. I also share them to make a point. What has not been abrogated by the New Testament, then the Old Testament still applies. Here in America, where early Christians made the laws as well as set up our current governing compact, we follow a somewhat different understanding.

Obviously, almost all laws the world over delineate good from

evil, and punish evil. This would be in the natural realm. But what I am referring to is in the spiritual realm, and the devil is under the judgement of Law— yes, even the Mosaic Law— and not grace and truth in Jesus Christ. So when we discuss thieving we must differentiate between a spiritual thief and a human thief. Albeit, the human thief may very well be operating under the influence of a spiritual entity, but the human is still responsible personally for whatever restitution is required under the law in the land from which the theft occurred.

Some of the Scriptures I referenced have nothing to do with “thieving” per se; but for attitudes or patterns which can cause thieving and dishonesty to rule in a neighborhood or area of the world. If you will review them, you will see that many include our confession and what we come in agreement with. Some are promises which we as believers in Christ can stand on and confess in order to maintain our covenant relationship. That also means receiving whatever is promised to us, as well as avoiding spiritual theft and/or getting our stuff back when we have caught the spiritual thief. I include the Scriptures here not because they are all-inclusive or because that is necessarily our topic; but to let you know, as a believer in Christ, that there are other conditions leading up to theft which are seldom discussed among the body of Christ, but which are critically important in rooting out human/spiritual theft.

Our topic today has to do with thieving from the spiritual realm exclusively. So let’s look at those Scriptures specifically. Since the devil is under the Law, let’s review Exodus 22:1-13 first. The first order of understanding here is that it says, “If a man shall steal....” (Exodus 22:1). The Hebrew word is *iysh*, which is

commonly used to describe the word male, man, etc. It comes from another word meaning mankind or 'to be extant.' Some argue this is for human thieves only and exclusively. I disagree. The Lord could have used the Hebrew word *adam* if the meaning were exclusively for humans. *Iysh* holds an understanding of someone or something extant. In this sentence, the "*Iysh*" must repay five times for an ox and four times for a sheep or goat. That's because the Hebrew word, *sahed* carries a definition for both sheep and goats. So even if you refuse my counsel that the understanding of something masculine is more weightier in the definition of the Hebrew word *Iysh*, as opposed to selectively human, we are talking ox, sheep and goats here.

It is the next sentence which uses a word meaning thief, solely and only. I really have no problem with those folks who feel the first sentence is for male humans only. So regardless of whether that thief is human or spiritual, every time the chapter separates the payback between man and thief, then those who feel this is for male humans will have to separate the commands for restitution as well. The reason why I don't, is because Exodus 22 is clearly part of the Mosaic Law. The devil and unregenerate mankind is clearly under the Law. Since I view this portion as applying to all thieves, then I see fivefold, fourfold and double restitutions. I have applied this to my own livestock and have been given extended time of health, as well as healing from the time of the injury (which was viewed as coming from a spiritual enemy source).

This brings me to my next point and another Scripture. It is helpful to receive understanding from the Lord as to whether this is truly the work of our spiritual enemy or whether this was

in the course of events as human error. Even when human error looked as if it was the source, I have later received word from the Lord that it was really a spiritual enemy trying to cause havoc to my property, even though a human soul was involved in the actual error. So communication with the Holy Spirit is essential in learning what is going on in the spiritual realm.

Our next Scripture for study is Proverbs 6:31. In actuality the whole chapter is beneficial. Specifically, Verse 31 tells us that a thief must pay back or make restitution sevenfold or the whole substance of his house. Trust me when I tell you that our spiritual enemy, the devil, does not want you to catch him in this act. Because I have livestock, I have applied two (double) four, five and sevenfold applications to a spiritual enemy. That brings the restitution to 18 times the original theft. I say that, even though if one catches a demon in the act, casting the thing out is what you must do. Trust me when I tell you that they do not make good house pets. At that point, casting out is crucial.

Back in the 1990s we had moved to a new farm. Unbeknownst to me when we rented, was the fact that the owners were Jehovah's Witnesses. The place had to be prayed over. Back then the body of Christ had a controversy about casting out or binding devils. I had always thought it was the same. So when I discovered a demon attacking my animals, I bound the thing. I will never forget the lesson Jesus taught me. One day I came into the barn to find a demon bound and hopping out of my way so as not to be noticed. I cried out to the Lord and said, "Father, what is that thing still doing here? I cast it out." The Holy Spirit said, "No, you did not, you only bound it." Immediately I cast it out, got my chores done and started a Bible search. What I found

is that the Greek word *ek-ballo* means to cast out far above any source, like straight above outer space. It is far above anything we can think. Devils cannot return once they are cast out. This is why they hate that. Binding them only hobbles them around your property to continue to cause trouble. I had never seen a property so infested with enemy forces. We were quite thrilled when our own farm was ready for us to move onto.

As I mentioned before, Proverbs 6 is replete with wisdom in waging spiritual warfare and maintaining a covenant relationship with our Lord. First we are told to mind our tongue. When dealing with thieves from the spiritual realm, it is critically important to come in agreement with God's word only and with the promises He has for you. Your confession is important in this regard. Secondly, Proverbs 6 also goes into various forms of sin, but specifically sins of lust. The chapter deals extensively with the attitudes which accompany the sins mentioned. It would do all of us a world of good to go over this portion of Scripture, as the Holy Spirit reveals, in an effort to keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Spiritual enemy forces don't need you to be in sin to attack, but it certainly makes it a whole lot easier to keep them off your stuff when you are working through the attitudes and issues which cause sin in your life.

The rest of the Scriptures I have shared deal with the issues we have already discussed: your tongue and positive confession, sin in your life and getting the information from the Lord as to whether your situation is from a spiritual thief or sabotaging human behavior. Let's jump to John 10. It is here in John's gospel that we see Jesus' opinion about thieves. Jesus also

allows the lines to be drawn for both spiritual as well as human thieves, but the clearcut evidence here is for spiritual thieves. While no specific mention is made here of restitution, it would seem that exposing a thief and following Jesus is all that is need for restitution in that “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10) Abundant life is the inheritance of the saints. If you are not experiencing that, then I suggest a thief has done something to lie to you, and in that lie, has robbed you of some benefit from your salvation. Go and get your “stuff” back.

Our last two Scriptures for mention are Luke 19:8-10. This is where we see Zacchaeus, a tax collector, proclaim to the Lord that if he took anything from another unjustly that he would restore to them fourfold what he had taken. Jesus exclaims upon hearing that: “This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Romans 11:29 says this: “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” In other words, when God gives a gift, He does not take it away. Romans 11 is referencing the house of Israel and uses this to make it clear that God has not walked away from Israel. We can understand from this passage that any time God gives His people a gift, it is not taken away. So it is easy to understand that a thief is involved with taking something away from us, not necessarily God.

Some would say I’m being too lawyerly about this whole thing. Let me ask a question. If God Almighty wrote a “manual” on how to function and fight spiritual enemies, even how to become

saved and set free from what plagues mankind, why wouldn't we want to do it the way the manual says? The Bible is that manual. Just because mankind has developed Christian religions which tell us not to follow various aspects of the book, does that mean we should obey man or obey God? The New Testament itself tells us what has been made obsolete in the Old Testament and what is still applicable to believers in Jesus Christ. The choice is certainly yours. If you had a human enemy who was stealing from you and lying about you and you could prove this enemy caused you to lose your job or home or health, wouldn't you hire an attorney and take them to court to get your property back? Jesus is our "attorney." The word of God is our conduit to the heavenly court. Jesus Christ became our mediator, Lord and High Priest when He shed His blood for our redemption.

I'm happy to report our healing has manifested. I will say that the enemy, on a few occasions since, has tried to convince us otherwise. Each time, we expose the thief and proclaim the word for restitution. Saints, don't allow our spiritual enemy to steal your stuff. Get it back. Fulfill all you are called to do in Christ Jesus, your Lord. Be in health, wealth and prosperity and lead others to Christ as your travel on this journey of life in Him.