



# Bitten by the Scorpion Series

## PURSUING RECONCILIATION

Lesson 4 - Conclusion

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# LESSON GOALS

1. Define Reconciliation
2. Learn the Principles of Reconciliation
3. Apply Reconciliation

## Scriptural Background:

- Luke 17:1;
- Matthew 5:21-24;
- 1 Corinthians 13;
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19;
- Romans 5



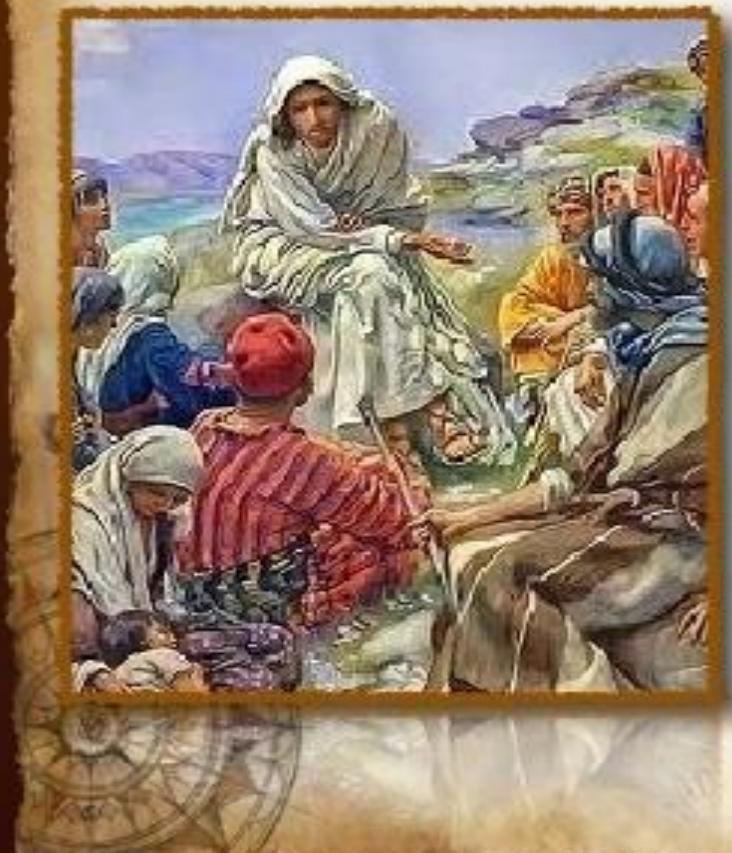
# The Sermon On The Mount

*First Be Reconciled To Your Brother - 23-26*

**Matthew 5:23-24 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

<sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.





# WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

- Reconciliation comes from the Greek family of words that has its roots in *allasso*.
- The meaning common to this word group is "change" or "exchange."
- Reconciliation involves a change in the relationship between God and man or man and man.



- It assumes there has been a breakdown in the relationship, but now there has been a change from a state of enmity and fragmentation to one of harmony and fellowship.



# WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

- In Romans 5:6-11, Paul says that before reconciliation we were powerless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies; we were under God's wrath (v. 9).
- Because of change or reconciliation, we become new creatures.
- If a person is about to offer a gift at the altar and remembers that he has something against his brother, he should leave his gift and be reconciled first to his brother and then come and offer his gift.





# PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION

## 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

- Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us **to Himself through** Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed **to us** the word of reconciliation.



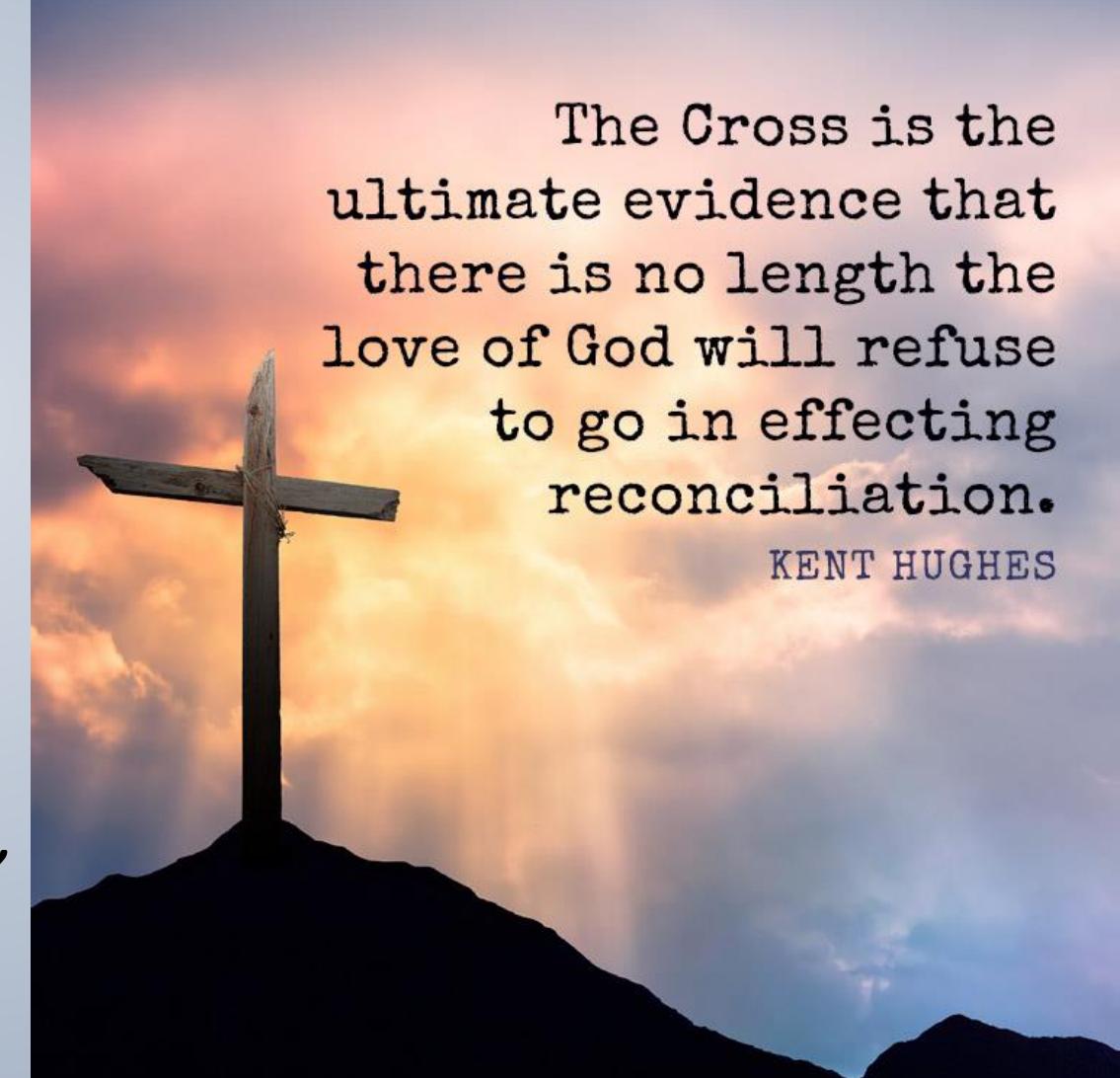


# PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION

- Reconciliation is something done by the one who offers it;
- It is not just something that happens to those alienated from each other due to offense:

2 Cor. 5:19

*“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself..”*



The Cross is the ultimate evidence that there is no length the love of God will refuse to go in effecting reconciliation.

KENT HUGHES



# PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION

➤ Reconciliation does not accuse or attribute blame:

*“...not imputing their trespasses unto them.”*

(See also Matt 5:24).

➤ Reconciliation is a God-entrusted message to the world through Christians:

*“...and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”*



# PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION

➤ Reconciliation is a God-given responsibility to every Christian:

*“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (vs. 18).*



All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us a ministry of reconciliation



# POWER OF RECONCILIATION

Pursuing reconciliation should be treated with urgency.

## SORROW





# POWER OF RECONCILIATION

- **Reconciliation is a catalyst** by which we help a brother/sister who is dying spiritually because of the stranglehold of unforgiveness and the root of bitterness.
- **Reconciliation is an opportunity** to be Christlike in extending grace to another. It is not about who is right nor who is wrong. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). God expects us to die to self to save another through reconciliation. Isn't this more important than being proven right?



# POWER OF RECONCILIATION

- **Reconciliation is a filter.** It filters out falsehood and leaves only truth. Someone may have been hurt because an inaccurate conclusion was drawn from inaccurate information. Likewise, inaccurate conclusion can be formed from accurate information. This occurs because of distortion of the facts being processed through an already compromised perspective.

## FILTER YOUR THOUGHTS THROUGH GOD'S WORD

“Is what I’m thinking about true?”

“Is it noble?”

“Is it right?”

“Is it pure?”

“Is it lovely,  
admirable,  
excellent, or  
praiseworthy?”

**Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”**

**THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS**





# APPLYING RECONCILIATION



➤ **Be Self-Reflective.** Too often we judge ourselves by our intentions and everyone else by their actions.

It is possible to intend one thing while communicating something totally different.

Sometimes, our true motives are cleverly hidden even from us. We want to believe they are pure. But, when we apply God's filter, His unchangeable Word, we see them as they really are, good or bad



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION



➤ **Be Sensitive and Compassionate.** Whether or not my motive was to hurt or not, reconciliation requires that I acknowledge that the other person believes with his/her whole heart that I have wronged him/her.

Regardless of the rationale behind his/her belief, we must be willing to humble ourselves and apologize.



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION



- **Be Obedient.** Remember, reconciliation is our God-given responsibility. Jesus exhorts us to pursue reconciliation even if we are not at fault.
- **Be Humble.** It takes maturity to walk in humility; meaning, giving up my right for peace sake, to bring reconciliation. It is harder for the person who was offended to make the first move towards reconciliation, which is why Jesus told us to “go” to him[her], i.e. make the first move.



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION



## ➤Contain the Exposure of the Offense.

It is easier to complain to someone else about an offense done to us than to approach the offender. But practice containment.

Matt. 18:15. *"If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back."*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION



## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent: Forgive & Ask for Forgiveness

God is the King of Salem (Peace) and as His children we must be agents (instruments or driving force) of peace.





# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

- We are peace-agents when we forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Colossians 3:13.

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (NIV).*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

- We are our Father's children when we become peacemakers as opposed to peacekeepers.

Matthew 5:9.

*“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

- Peacekeepers avoid confrontations at all costs. Whereas, peacemakers confront but in a godly way. However, if we approach the person whom we have offended with an attitude of impatience/frustration, rather than seeking edification and restoration, we are peacekeepers.

Romans 14:19:

*"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another (NKJV).*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

■ God is One; His body is One; His Church is One. How then can we maintain this “Oneness” in the absence of peace? It takes persistent work! There is a war in our members, the flesh warring against the Spirit. Who will we allow to win?

Colossians 3:15.

*“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

Ephesians 4:1-3.

*“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”  
(NIV).*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

- Reconciliation through peace requires intentionality and may be the difference between hell and heaven.

Hebrews 12:14.

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”*

2 Peter 3:14.

*“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Be a Peace-Agent:

■ Being a peace-agent requires wisdom and is expensive. Pride defends. Sadly, defending one's self only fuels the fire of offense. Choose Humility. It agrees and asks for forgiveness.

We must trade in our will and pride for submission and humility. How to do this is not based on our human intellect but on godly wisdom.



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

➤ **Be a Peace-Agent:**  
James 3:17-18.

*17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

*18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”*



# APPLYING RECONCILIATION

## ➤ Walk in Love:

- Saying “I love you” is easier than doing “I love you.” Therefore, how do I show that I love you during offense? By emulating God.

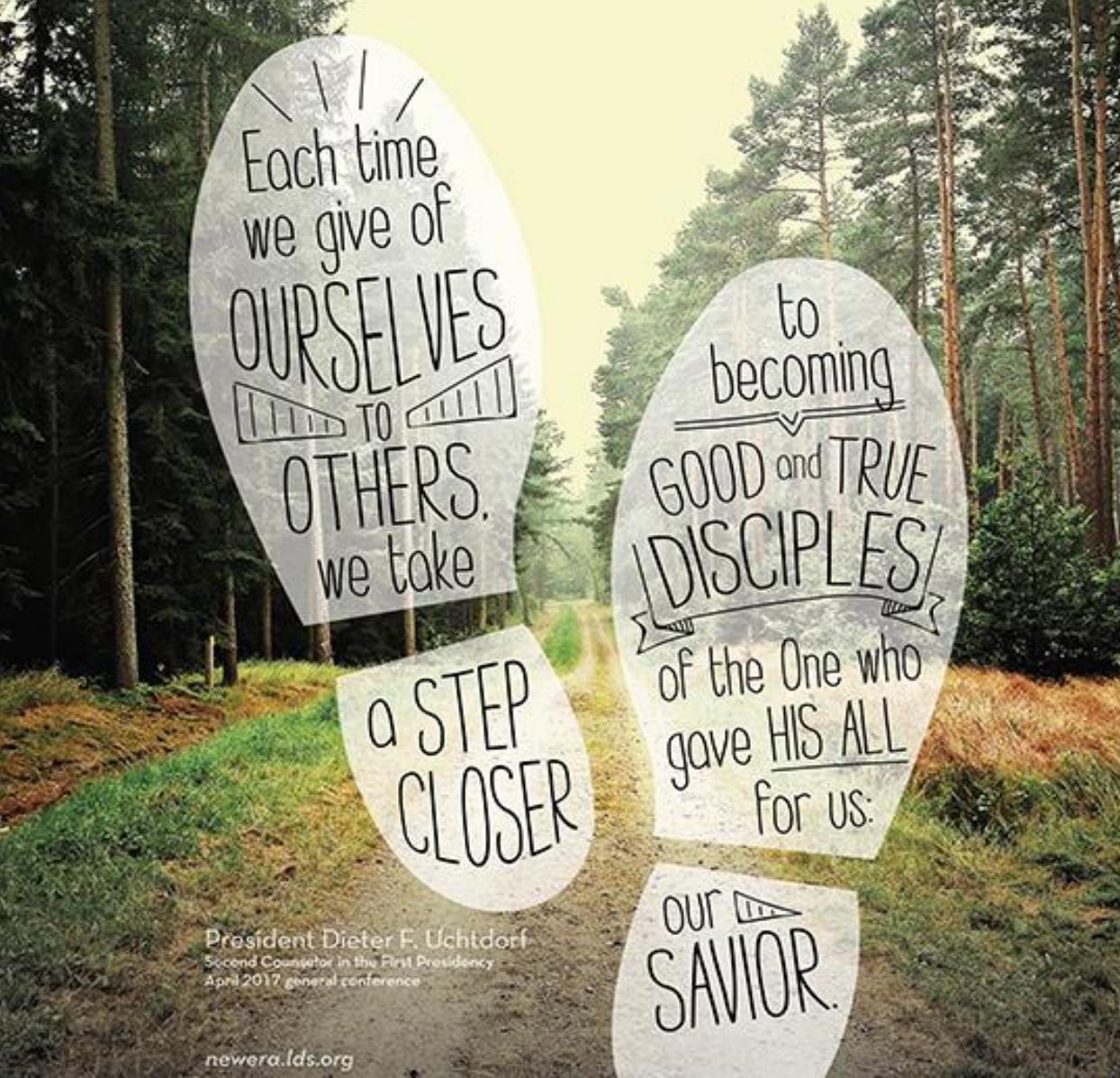
Romans 5:8

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

- While we were still in the position of offenders, Jesus chose to die to self. He submitted His will, chose to forgive and demonstrated His love by applying the principles of reconciliation.



# FOLLOW JESUS





# CONCLUSION

- The “word of reconciliation” entrusted to us by God is built on the fact of our sinful state and the solution of His unconditional love. This means that God boldly confronts us with the truth of our sins; and, since He is “*not willing that any should perish*” (2 Pet. 3:9), He offers us reconciliation through His love. Notice, Jesus did not “compromise truth for a relationship” with us, and neither should we.



# CONCLUSION

- Our concern for our brother's/sister's soul should compel us to pursue reconciliation with him/her in truth and in love.
- The key to the engine of reconciliation is pure love. It never fails, never fades, and never...ends. It seeks not its own. It is not easily offended (1 Cor. 13:5).



# CONCLUSION

■ God’s love is the only proven vaccine strong enough to protect us from the poison of the scorpion’s bite of offense. Therefore, His love must increase and overflow in our hearts.



# CONCLUSION

The only way to ensure that this happens is to be full of the Holy Ghost:

Romans 5:5

*“...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*



# OUR PRAYER

“Fill me up, let ME overflow!

