

Letter 496
“I Care For The Abused And The Abuser”
 2016-07-31

Dear Dan,

One of the themes that has emerged in these Letters is that of abuse in the Household of Christ.

Jesus prophesied that this would happen. Here are some quotes:

*“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over **his household**, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.*

*But if **that evil servant** says in **HIS HEART**, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”.*

The Book of Matthew, chapter 24, verses 45 through 51.

But Jesus also provided the **remedy** for both the Abused and the Abusers.

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

The Book of Matthew, chapter 6 , verse 12.

*“For if ye forgive men their trespasses,
 your heavenly Father will also forgive you:
 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses,
 neither will your Father forgive your trespasses”.*

The Book of Matthew, chapter 6 , verses 14 through 15.

*“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them;
 for they know not what they do”.*

The Book of Luke, chapter 23, verse 34a.

Just about everyone that the Lord has put me into close relationship with has been exposed to or experienced abuse of some kind or another. Some were raised in a cult that masqueraded as Christian. Others came out of Church splits that had its origin in abuse. And others had abusive authorities in their lives.

I have already documented the abuse that I was exposed to. At least what I can remember.

And it all comes from not guarding and nourishing one’s own Heart, like Ananias and Sapphira failed to do in Acts 5. This tells me that an abuser very likely has had injury in the

area that is typically covered by the Breastplate of Righteousness, thereby exposing his or her (new) heart to the influence of the works of the Devil.

So, what is the Breastplate of Righteousness that protects us from having Satan fill our Hearts to lie to the Holy Spirit, and after that to becoming “that evil servant”?

It is made of these two things: Faith and Love (see 1st Thessalonians 5:8).

We strengthen our Faith and exercise our Love by Believing and Doing the Commandments of Jesus found in Scripture.

Here is the Commandment that would have saved Ananias and Sapphira from being killed by the Holy Spirit:

*Thy WORD have I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against thee.*

The Book of Psalms, chapter 119, verse 11.

The Book Psalms chapter 119 references the Word of God 43 times.

Here are some samples:

*How can a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed according to Your WORD.*

*I will delight myself in Your statutes;
I will not forget Your WORD.*

*My soul clings to the dust;
Revive me according to Your WORD.*

*My soul melts from heaviness;
Strengthen me according to Your WORD.*

*Establish Your WORD to Your servant,
Who is devoted to fearing You.*

*So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me,
For I trust in Your WORD.*

*And take not the WORD of truth utterly out of my mouth,
For I have hoped in Your ordinances.
So shall I keep Your law continually,
Forever and ever.
And I will walk at liberty,
For I seek Your precepts.*

*Remember the WORD to Your servant,
Upon which You have caused me to hope.*

*This is my comfort in my affliction,
For Your WORD has given me life.*

I have said that I would keep Your WORDs.

*Be merciful to me according to Your WORD.
I thought about my ways,
And turned my feet to Your testimonies.*

Jesus is the Word (John 1:1), Jesus teaches the Word (Luke 13:12), Jesus lives the Word (Romans 6:10).

In the Book of Micah there is a prophetic Word for people who have been abused in the Church and became an outcast from the Church. Here it is:

"In that day," says the Lord,

***I will** assemble the **lame**,*

I will** gather the **outcast

*And those whom I have **afflicted**;*

***I will** make the lame a **remnant**,*

*And the outcast a **strong nation**;*

*So the Lord will **reign over them in Mount Zion***

From now on, even forever."

The Book of Micah, chapter 4, verse 6 through 7.

Would we then be part of that Assembly? The Lame, the Outcast, and the Afflicted?

Maybe we are.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus