

TWO WORLDS -ONE WAY –#9

In **John 11:1**, Jesus raised a man from the dead after 4 days in the grave, with just 3 words, "Lazarus, come forth." In **Mark 2:11**, Jesus commands the paralytic to do something he hadn't done in a long time, with a 7-word command: "...Arise, take up your bed, and walk." In **Matthew 14:18**, Jesus fed 5000 Hungry souls, the world's largest fish fry ever recorded, after He blessed the 5 loaves and 2 fish with just four words: "Bring them to Me." In **Matthew 14:29**, Jesus commanded a reckless disciple, Simon Peter, to walk on water with just 1 word: "Come."

Yet, despite all these powerful, jaw-dropping, miracles that Jesus did in the presence of His disciples -**Not one time did they ever ask – (1) LORD** Teach us how to raise the dead, or **(2)** or **LORD** how do we walk on water, or **(3)** or how to make the lame to walk again, or the blind to see, or **(4)** How to feed 5000 hungry souls, **(5)** or How preach a dynamite sermon!

Matthew 6:5 "And **when** you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men --Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward, **v6** but when you pray, go into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly, **v7** and **when** you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words, **v8** therefore do not be like them, for your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:

In this PRAYER -We find a REQUEST was made **vs12**: "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" and **(2)**. A PROMISE was given **v14**, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive your trespasses, and **(3)** and A WARNING was issued **vs15**, "IF you do not forgive others, then your Father in Heaven will NOT forgive your trespasses!"

Question: Why do we struggle so much with forgiving others and receiving forgiveness?

Ships don't sink --because of the water around them; they sink because the water gets inside the boat!

The PELICANO was the world's most unwanted ship. Called the hobo of the seas. It was an International fugitive, wandering the world's oceans for more than 2 years in search of a port-- that would allow the **PELICANO** crew to dump its garbage. The ship had been rejected by every port, the Caribbean, Malaysia, Africa, and even Singapore!

WHAT was the PROBLEM? The problem wasn't with the ship. Although rusty and covered with barnacles from years of service, this 466ft long freighter was certainly seaworthy!

The Problem --wasn't with the ownership; they kept up with all the legal permits and paid all their levies and taxes! **It wasn't with the crew** – They were all seasoned and highly skilled sailors!

The Problem was the cargo— imagine carrying 14,000 metric tons of putrefying, rotting, disgusting, stinking, smoldering garbage on board the ship from the Philadelphia garbage strike in 1986...

The real danger --was below deck; the owners **(1)** ignored all the possible consequences of stored garbage, and **(2)** they failed to consider what would happen if they couldn't unload all this garbage!

Here are a few Dangers of stored garbage: **(1)** it smells, **(2)** it's toxic, **(3)** it contaminates **everything it touches!**

What are the Spiritual Dangers -when we store up old wounds, hurts, past offenses, things that were said or done that offended us, they remain with us; they will contaminate everything and everyone they touch.

What's ONBOARD your heart -How long have you been holding onto those old wounds, hurts, and past offenses inside your heart?

What happens --when anger and unforgiveness are left alone, left unchecked, and ignored?

- They change into something much worse.
- They will mutate and begin to grow like cancer.

Because **ANGER** soon begins to take root, but anger never stays anger, and your stored-up outrage is just one letter short of **Danger!**

The temperature inside your heart will soon rise! **The Anger you feel** today changes in time; it soon becomes a steaming pot of **REVENGE**—called get even, payback!

WHEN you pray about this, you're confronted with a choice to make:

- Do I put the fire out or heat it up?
- Do I get over it, or do I get even?
- Do I keep bringing it up again?
- Do I release it, or do I resent it?
- Do I let my past define me?
- Do I allow my anger to turn into something worse --Bitterness and Resentment...?

Bitterness is resentful cynicism --that results in intense hostility toward others.

Ephesians 4:31 -The Bible teaches us to “get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, and slander, along with every form of malice.”

Ephesians 4:32 -The Bible tells us how to deal with bitterness and its fruits --by being “kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God forgave you.”

Numbers 5:24 “The bitter water that brings a curse.” In its figurative sense, bitterness refers to a mental or emotional state that corrodes or “eats away at.”

Bitterness --is that state of mind that willfully holds on to the past, and angry feelings, which can soon break out in rage at any moment.

The danger of allowing bitterness to rule your hearts is that it soon refuses reconciliation – bitterness **soon gives way to wrath**, which is the outward expression of appeasing your anger.

All of this --soon leads to a spirit of malice, which signifies an evil disposition or intense hatred.

Malice is a deliberate attempt to harm another person.

Ephesians 4:31 Therefore, “every form of malice” **MUST** be eliminated

Remember, anger is just one letter short of **Danger**.