

September 2010

To the man who pleases Him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.

Dear Friend,

Has the devil ever stolen from you? Would you let somebody walk into your house and steal all of your stuff without ever calling the police for help? If the police caught this thief, would you just be happy they found him, or would you want your stuff back? Would you want him to pay for his crime? Let me ask you this: what has the devil stolen from you?

It is time the Body of Christ makes the devil pay! We have let him come in and take whatever he wants. God recently said to me, "My people are letting the devil get away with too much." He said, "Son, if the body of Christ would start believing Me to avenge them of their adversary, they would all be in overflow, with seven times everything the devil has stolen from them."

I don't know about you, but that sounds good to me. I am ready for the devil to pay back everything he has ever stolen from me, my family, and my ministry.

Notice the words the Lord said to me, "Avenge them of their adversary." Let me tell you exactly what that means. In Luke 18:1-8 we read the story of a widow who was apparently being harassed by an adversary. She wanted it stopped, she also wanted restoration in her life. So, she went to the judge. She didn't just go to the judge, she went to his house. Apparently, she was convinced she had a rock solid case. She knew she had rights and they were being violated.

Now, I want to point out a few things about this judge. Jesus said he feared not God neither regarded man. (Luke 18:2) This judge had no reverence for God, and he had no regard for man (other translations call him wicked and perverted). Jesus referred to him as unjust. Despite all of that, this widow knew she had rights. She also knew the judge's job, which he was appointed to, was to uphold her rights. She simply wanted her legal rights to be enforced.

This widow wanted to be avenged of her adversary. In the literal Greek, this phrase implied that she was not only asking for a legal solution, but also immediate cease of the action of her adversary and she wanted to be compensated for the damages he caused. Do you see where I am going with this? God told me we are letting the devil get by with too much. We ask God to deliver us, we want the attack to cease, but that is where we stop. We fail to ask God to avenge us. When God hears "Avenge

me of my adversary," He not only hears, "Stop this attack, stop the harassment," but also, "Make the one responsible for it pay for what he has done."

Think of it this way. Let's say you just bought a new car and you are out driving around. You approach an intersection, and all of a sudden somebody pulls out and plows into your car, broadsides it and then drives off. However, a witness gets the guy's license plate number and gives it to you. The police show up and you give them the license plate number. They contact him and tell him he is liable, but he doesn't want to take responsibility for his actions, so you end up in court.

Now you have an eyewitness and the police report. You have a rock solid case. This accident was not your fault. Your lawyer presents your case to the judge and now it is in his hands. After hearing all the evidence he gives his verdict. He says, "Sir, you are responsible for the damage you have caused." At that moment you jump up and shout, "I told you it was his fault! I knew I was right! It was his fault!" Then you leave. All you walk out with is the satisfaction of being right.

What about the damage? You still have a wrecked car!

Folks, this is exactly what we have been doing with the devil. God wants to pronounce His verdict on our adversary, but we leave the courtroom too early. We are leaving with just the satisfaction the devil is a thief. What about everything he has stolen from us? I not only want it recognized it was the devil who stole from me, but I want him to stop his attack, and I want him to pay for the damage. I want him to pay me back for what he has put me through. It is time we start crying out, "avenge me of my adversary!"

Now, back to Luke 18. Look at what the judge says, *"I will avenge her..."* *"⁶And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. ⁷And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? ⁸I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*

Notice Jesus says God will avenge His own elect. Let's look at the word "avenge". It means to not only stop the attack, but it also means payback, compensated, restored.

When I was about 20 years old, I found out God was in the restoration business. I also found out His definition of restore was different than mine. When God restores, He makes it better, increases and multiplies. Take Job for example. When God restored Job, he came out better, increased and multiplied. Now we have to understand that before the devil attacked Job, he was the richest man in the East. However when God restored him, He did it twofold. It put Job back in overflow.

The devil is a thief. That is what Jesus called him in John 10:10. Thieves don't own anything. It is all somebody else's stuff. Everything the devil has, he has stolen from the Body of Christ. What has he stolen from you? Do you want it back? Do you want the God kind of restoration?

Let's look at what Proverbs 6:30-31 says about a thief, *"Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house."* That is what God says we can expect of a thief, if he is caught. Why haven't we pushed for that restoration? We are people of faith and God says we have the right for restoration sevenfold.

I want to challenge you to make a list of all the things the devil has stolen from you. Write them down on paper and then go to God with your list and these scriptures, Proverbs 6:30 & 31. Then, believe the attacks will stop and you will be compensated and restored! Believe God for sevenfold! You have the right to be avenged. You have the right to be restored. You have the right to be recompensed. You are a child of God.

This message is vital for the Body of Christ. The Bible says Heaven is restraining Jesus, holding Him back, until the restoration of all things in Acts 3:19-21.


Proverbs 11:31 says, "*Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.*" This tells me restoration is not something that is going to happen when we get to Heaven. It says "in the earth." Let me ask you, what good would sevenfold restoration do you in Heaven? You won't need it there. You need it here on earth.

Think about the price Jesus paid for you and me. He not only purchased our salvation, but He provided everything we need to live in victory. God's best is not for us to be pushed around by the devil. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross, we have rights. God will enforce the rights His Son purchased for us.

Quit letting the devil off so easily. It is time for him to start paying back what he owes the Body of Christ. Begin to cry out, "Avenge me of my adversary." Then tell the devil his day has come and you are going after what is rightfully yours.

You have rights, God is your judge and Jesus is your lawyer. Be avenged. Get what rightfully belongs to you!

I am very, very thankful for you,



Dr. Tom Leding