

# Do Right When You Do Wrong

## Leviticus 5 and 6

### May 16,2010

Aesop's fables contain many helpful moral lessons for us. One of them is about a man and a satyr who, having struck up an acquaintance, sat down together to eat. The day being wintry and cold, the man put his fingers to his mouth and blew upon them. "What's that for, my friend?" asked the satyr. "My hands are so cold," said the man, "I do it to warm them." In a little while some hot food was placed before them, and the man, raising the dish to his mouth, again blew upon it. "And what's the meaning of that, now?" asked the satyr. "Oh," replied the man, "my porridge is so hot, I do it to cool it." "Then," said the satyr, "from this moment I renounce your friendship, for I will have nothing to do with one who blows hot and cold with the same mouth."

#### I. Acknowledge Your Wrongdoing. Lev. 5:1,4-5

In the Greek, the verb to "err" is {planomai}. This is the word from which we get the English word "planet." These heavenly bodies are called planets because they seem to wander ("err") in the sky. There are not only planets in the solar system, but also erring ones in the Christian church.

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In Ecuador, the celebration of a new year has significance. During the week preceding January 1, people create and decorate scarecrow-like dummies. Then at midnight on December 31, they take these dummies out and set them on fire. It's called "Burning the Old Man." This tradition gives the people a sense of new beginnings and represents the burning away of their sins and shortcomings. Many of these people have not experienced the dross-burning power of Jesus Christ, so they ignite these effigies in hopes of removing their sin. For Christians, the knowledge of Christ's redemption should cause us to confess our sins and "Burn the Old Man" every day.  
Fresh Beginnings, Ecuador, Mission Vision Network, 1994

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In 1985, a missions organization assigned a family to work in a predominantly Moslem city. After decades of work, this denomination had only produced five small churches in that unresponsive environment. Many thought their talents would be better used in another, more open, area. They were convinced of their call and committed themselves to the work. They didn't know how to reach the city, but they knew God did. So they joined fourteen other believers in praying for the city. During an all-night prayer meeting, they sensed God was telling them he "didn't have any clean vessels to use." They fell on the dirt floor and began confessing their sins. As they did, God revealed everything in their lives that was hindering his work. Revival broke out among this small group and quickly spread. They proclaimed the gospel with boldness. Over the next 3 1/2 years 132,000 people made professions of faith. When the family returned home for furlough in 1989, 156 churches had been started by new believers in that area which initially seemed so indifferent to the gospel. Spiritual awakening awaits those who seek God with all their hearts.  
Fresh Encounter Leader Manual, Henry Blackaby & Claude King, 1993, p. 8

#### II. Get Right With God. Lev. 5:14-16

George Whitefield had a brother, who had lived far from the ways of godliness; and one afternoon he was sitting in a room in a chapel-house. He had heard his brother preach the day before, and his poor conscience had been cut to the very quick. Said Whitefield's brother, when he was at tea: "I am a lost man," and he groaned and cried, and could neither eat nor drink. Said Lady Huntingdon, who sat opposite: "What did you say, Mr. Whitefield?" "Madam," said he, "I said I am a lost man." "I'm glad of

it," said she; "I'm glad of it." "Your ladyship, how can you say so? It is cruel to say you are glad that I am a lost man." "I repeat it, sir," said she; "I am heartily glad of it." He looked at her, more and more astonished at her barbarity. "I am glad of it," said she, "because it is written, 'The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.'" With the tears rolling down his cheeks, he said: "What a precious Scripture; and how is it that it comes with such force to me? O! Madam," said he, "Madam, I bless God for that; then he will save me; I trust my soul in his hands; he has forgiven me." He went outside the house, felt ill, fell upon the ground, and died.

--C. H. Spurgeon

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A man continually rededicated his life and always prayed the same prayer, "Lord, take the cobwebs out of my life." His pastor had heard this prayer more times than he cared to remember. Finally, when the man uttered that prayer into his pastor's ear at the altar, the pastor responded with a prayer of his own, "Lord, kill the spider!" Repentance requires change in both our attitudes and our behavior.

Our Daily Bread, March 19, 1992

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### **III. Make Restitution Where Possible. Lev. 6:1-7**

In the course of his preaching, W. P. Nicholson insisted on the need for restitution where something had to be put right with another person. After one mission held in East Belfast early in 1923, many tools and pieces of equipment which had been purloined earlier were returned to the shipyard, and in such quantities that an additional store had to be provided to hold them. A letter to the evangelist from the management of another firm acknowledged receipt of tools received from one of their own men who signed himself "Ex-worker," and thanked him for his influence in the case, adding that they had heard of similar cases directly attributable to his ministry. —S. W. Murray

**Applications:** Why We Need To Stay Right With God:

#### **Unchecked Decay**

Recently a huge tree in Colorado fell to the ground with a resounding crash after having stood majestically on a hill for more than 400 years. A mere sapling when Columbus landed in San Salvador, over the centuries it had been struck by lightning 14 times, braved great windstorms, and even defied an earthquake. In the end, however, it was killed by some little beetles. Boring under the bark, they chewed away its mighty fibers until one day that lordly king of the forest came thundering down. So, too, apparently insignificant sins often make substantial inroads into our spiritual lives, and if left unchecked may cause our downfall. The idle word spoken, the prayer time omitted, and the occasional fleshly pleasure indulged—these things "spoil" the vineyard much more than we realize. If Satan gets an entering wedge on inconsistency, the leverage he then exerts is greatly increased.

"It is better to be innocent than forgiven!"