

HEBREW S



Jesus preaching the "Sermon On The Mount"

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A STUDY IN PRACTICAL CHRISTOLOGY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Study prepared by
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David Milton's War: One Man's Story

Studs Terkel in his book, The Last Good War, noted that in the war, there in the Atlantic Ocean during the height of the u-boat campaign, a freighter carrying Sherman tanks from North America began to cross the ocean from Halifax, Nova Scotia. They were sailing for the Allied Forces, but they found themselves in a very bad storm. One of the men on that ship was an 18 year old merchant seaman named David Milton. It is 1942.

During this voyage to Europe, a storm came up and the tanks that were stored in the cargo hold broke loose and began to slide around the length of that hold. These twenty tons of loose and sliding metal slammed into the bulkheads and they threatened to go clean through the sides of the ship, sinking that ship, quick-smart. Something had to be done, now !!!

Down into the hold went several merchant seaman who were charged with securing the cargo. This is one of the most dangerous jobs at sea. One of these men was David Milton. No one expected to come up out of the hold alive. They climbed up on top of those sliding tanks and they began the famous 'tank round-up', a feat of pure muscle, frail rope, and steel cable.

The ship had to pull out of line in the convoy, placing itself at risk of the u-boats and out of reach of the protection of the convoy. For ten long hours they struggled, one tank at a time to get cables in place and secure those tanks. The ship had to head into the waves to help the men below, taking the ship farther and farther from the safety net of the convoy.

Eyewitnesses say that not one seaman was killed in this rather special rodeo, but there were several broken bones and smashed fingers. It took time, and it took a constant watchful, 'timed', eye to the roll of that ship. David Milton climbed out of the hold, alive and well. The ship was safe.

Yes, they succeeded in securing the lines, of 'corralling the tanks'. No other ship was lost, and no tanks were destroyed. It was the largest shifting of weight without any loss to have ever occurred at sea.

The effort of those merchant marines was exemplary. Their courage was immense, and the situation demanded every bit of effort and attention that they could muster. The greatest danger was not the enemy submarines, it was not even the waves of the sea. It was the internal danger of things being loose and not tied down properly inside for the trip across the ocean. **The stresses of the outside can only be handled when we are battered down on the inside.**

The Christian life is like that, every day. We are all called on to take a load from one side of our world to the other. It takes everything we have to keep it all centred and secured. One small mistake can make a lifetime of mistakes and regrets. Some can not be recalled. Some can. And some will cause our ship of faith to hang in the balance. We must make sure that no little foxes get in and spoil the sanctity and security of our ship of faith. We must let the reality of Jesus permeate the whole of our very being.

Pressing on to Maturity

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And this we shall do, if God permits. 4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. 7 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 8 but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

9 But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you." 15 And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

“We all are at war, every day, against sin and the wiles of Satan...”

The Elementary Principles About The Christ...

1. One of the passages where a great deal of mistaken theology has taken place in the church is that of Hebrews 6:1.
2. Traditionally we have read this passage to say that we need to be preaching on all of the things, all of the attitudes, all of the ‘works’ we are to do, now that we have accepted the reality of Jesus. It is the term ‘leaving’ that causes us problems. It is not suggesting that we abandon the discussion of Jesus / Christology, but rather it is saying that we can not dwelling on the moments of immaturity where we only partake of milk and do not get out on the road as servants of Jesus.
3. What the author of this letter is telling us, is now that we have established a life with Jesus, we need to let it permeate ever element and every action , every moment of our life. It is saying let Jesus reside as the central core of all our thinking in all matters.
4. Simply Put: ***This is not a statement of permission whereby we are now called on to only preach the periphery as the majority.***
5. The writer also tells us that we need to focus on more than just the first lessons. We need to go back to basics frequently and carefully, but we also need to grow. That is were we all need to put in some very hard yards, in the “...**PRESSING ON TO MATURITY...**”

...Pressing On To Maturity

1. Maturity / perfection is that way of thinking that will promotes a corresponding type of action and connection as we go on in life. It is that which will lead the person on to greater accomplishments and depths of understanding.
2. We are not to sit on our laurels, our past accomplishments, our concluded educations and to thus think that we have arrived. Real maturity in Christ is seen, and confirmed, every day of our lives, and in every event of those days.
3. We have learned who Jesus is, we have learned what Jesus means, we have learned what Jesus wants. Now, as we face the day, the road, the pressures of life, let us not loose sight of the fact of Jesus. Let us let Him live in our lives, today. That is the way of maturity.
4. This is the challenge we all face, the road to a lasting maturity. We all need to pay attention to where we are at in our Christian lives. We all will find that there are days, and actions, that are just difficult to undo and once we get lost in the down moments, the momentum towards maturity that we seek to develop and maintain is lost. Now things get hard.

... "Impossible To Renew Them" ...

1. The great moment of crisis arises when someone has come to a point of obedient faith, and then found a way to set it aside as the prime directive in their lives. What do you do then?
2. By learning how to set Christian maturity and ideals aside, if even for one short moment, we find ourselves now venerable to our own misguided thinking, and it will affect us the rest of our lives. [cf .Eve]
3. Once I have figured out how to open the box, I know the secret to my own demise. It is the classic opening of "Pandora's Box". Once it is opened, it can never be closed.
4. NOTE: This passage is a discussion of the realities of knowledge, not the limits of grace.
5. We can say that because of what is said next... It is the classic tale of every abandoned or neglected garden.

Thistles or Veggies / Veggies or Thistles

1. When a garden is abandoned, or neglected in some way, there will be thistles that are getting in among the vegetables
2. The evidence of neglect-abandonment is seen in the way the thistles come in and begin to grow. You will always see a few weeds in every garden that need to be pulled. **Pull them!** Do not let them get ahead of you, for the work is then twice as hard to get it all back in shape. **This is 'stinking thinking' action c leaning time.**
3. What is sad, is that there will not be just one weed, --there will be many of them once we begin to look.
4. When a life in Christ is neglected, and or totally abandoned, it is like that garden and the first thing we have to restore is the purpose and direction in our lives.
5. Remember: God has not abandoned us. God will not abandon us, but we can all abandon and neglect Him.
6. We all are going to forced out, through the 'Exiles Gate'. The real question is "what do we take with us, that we will always have near us, is that which is in our hearts?"
7. When Nero forced all of the Jews and Christians out of Rome, they were not allowed to go home and to pack a bag. It was get out and get out now" command that they were facing. The prodding of the spear only helped to emphasise the 'point'. What you have to sustain your faith is that which is fundamentally know, understood and practiced daily. When it slips into a state of neglect, so does everything else. **It thus becomes 'sluggish'. Hebrews 6:12**

This is the path to 'strategic thinking' .

The End of The Story: A Churches Example

David Milton's personal story is one of survival. It is not filled with any great latter day significance on his part. What it is filled with is the story of a young man who had a terrifying job to do and he went and did it. That is it.

We all are like the David Milton's of this world. We are just simple common seamen, who have had to go out and serve in this day and in this place, all in the manner most needed.

Oh, we need to take what we have learned and apply it. Not one man who went into that hold had every had to secure a load of tanks in a storm at sea before. They knew basic seamanship, and they knew the necessity of getting this particular job done right. They went into the hold without flinching, for the safety of the whole ship and their shipmates. It was just a natural thing to do, albeit, there was nothing natural about the doing of it.

We too are asked to take Jesus with us and then to go out and serve. It is not any different to David Milton. **All hail the common hero, who takes his lead from the foundations that stand eternal, and then goes about his business resolutely.**

By the way, those tanks that were saved down there in the hold, by the work of David Milton and his fellow sailors, - they were among the first tanks landed at a place called Normandy and they raced across France, Belgium, and Holland. They raced all the way into German and helped bring the end of the war under another man, one named Patton. Neither George Patton or David Milton knew one another, but together they served with one another towards a common goal.

..... **An Old Testament Perspective**

AND THE SIX PART BLESSING of the Abrahamic Covenant
Genesis 12:1ff

Hebrews 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram,

"Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,

To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation,

And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. " ---- F

This is a request for a total break with all that Abraham has in this world, from the perspective of the Nuzi Laws. It is absolute total surrender of all personal sovereignty.

A

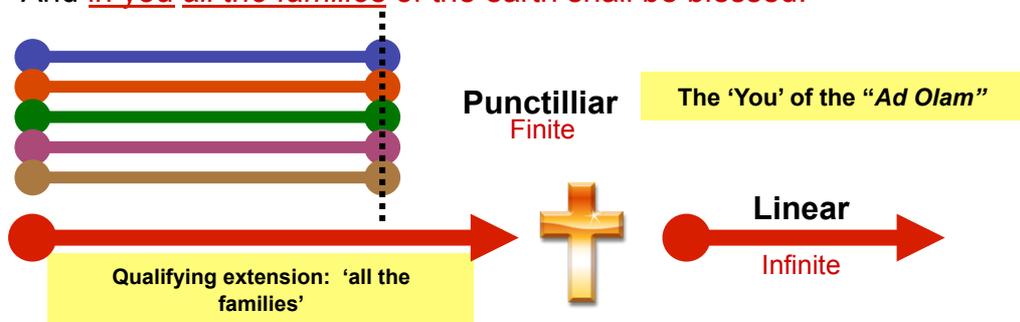
B

C

D

E

His loss is replaced with substance greater than loss.



Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 17:1ff, Genesis 22:9-19 (:16)

The "Oath" of God To Abraham

Hebrews 6: 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you." 15 And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

1. Reference is to Genesis 22:16.
2. We have in Jesus a sure thing, because God took an oath to ensure that we have an anchor and a priest that owes no allegiance to anything but to God and righteousness.
3. As in all of the statements of the Abrahamic Covenant, the one point that is set in linear syntax is the part about all families / all peoples will be blessed in the progeny of Abraham.
4. Paul clarifies this when he says in Galatians 3 that the dual 'zerah' was in reference to the one and not to the many. [A dual is a word that is both singular and plural without and added letters. We have a few of these still in English: deer, sheep.]

The End of The Story: A Churches Example

Question for Sunday Morning Discussion

1. What is essential that we preach, here in this place, today?
Why? What is there about this message that is going to take us from the world of the elementary to the world of the mature?
2. How do you determine what should be preached-taught and how much of each segment?
3. Why do you think that one who has been enlightened has so hard a time getting things back right with God, restoring the purity of his faith?
4. Where do the seeds for sin and doubt come from in your life?
How do you handle the incursions of sin ?