

# A Lesson of Life

Gail Allwine

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At this point I would like to start by looking at a scripture in the Old Testament and that's Ezekiel 20:25.

**Ezekiel 20:25** *Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live; (KJV)*

This sounds completely incongruous. How could God give us bad laws? People have seized on this, I think, over the years and especially now recently, arguing that there is this harsh God of the Old Testament who gave us all these laws that were so hard for mankind to follow. Then along came Jesus Christ to do away with all of these things and give us peace and harmony. But really, this was nothing of the kind. I would like to turn to Matthew 5:17.

**Matthew 5:17** *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.*

*18) For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.*

*19) Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

Christ taught God's laws, God's commandments. When a young man asked Jesus Christ what was necessary to enter the Kingdom of God, this was his reply in Matthew 19.

**Matthew 19:16** *Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”*

*17) So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”*

*18) He said to Him, “Which ones?”*

*Jesus said, “You shall not murder, ‘ You shall not commit adultery, ‘ You shall not steal, ‘ You shall not bear false witness, ‘*

*19) Honor your father and your mother, ‘and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ‘(NKJV)*

Christ was enumerating some of the Ten Commandments that were given in the Old Testament. I would like to turn to Psalm 19:7.

**Psalm 19:7** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

*8) The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; (NKJV)*

We see God's laws are pure and perfect and just what man needs to follow and Jesus Christ taught that; He didn't teach anything different. Going back to Ezekiel 20:25, of course there is a problem there with the translation. I was quoting the old King James.

The New King James is a little bit better. It says, *I also gave them up to statutes that were not good.*

God's Word Translation is even better; *I also allowed them to follow laws that were not good and rules by which they could not live.*

God does not give us bad laws but He allows us to come up with bad laws and follow them. I think Allen gave some wonderful examples of these things that are being passed as laws, even as we speak it seems. People are being forced to follow them.

The big question I realize is, why does God do that? Why does He allow us to have these bad laws? I saw a recent Facebook post that showed a beautiful spring picture and a mother with a young child walking down a lane and there were beautiful pink flowers on both sides. There was a caption which was a quote by Anne Broadstreet.

*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.*

This is a cute saying but it hits a profound principle on how God is dealing with our human experience. If we experienced only the good and pleasant in life with no problems, could we avoid being spoiled children? I've seen plenty of counter examples to that in my life. Could we truly appreciate what is good, lovely and true without experiencing the opposite? Could we truly be thankful for God's coming Kingdom without experiencing a kingdom or a world as we see today, filled with every kind of evil? Could we develop the character that God wants us to have without coming to totally abhor what we see around us in this world today?

There's a line a song in the Broadway musical, "The Fantasticks" that goes,

*Without a hurt, the heart is hollow.*

I think that is quite true. I'd like to turn to Matthew 13:10.

**Matthew 13:10** *And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"*

*11) He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

*12) For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*

13) *Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*

14) *And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;*

15) *For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.* (NKJV)

God does allow and even cause blindness to keep people from seeing things. They can then go ahead and experience the evil that we need to experience in growing as the people who God wants us to be. There's really no better example than the world around us today. Christ prophesied that in the end time knowledge will be much increased and it certainly has been incredibly increased in recent years. God has designed in the human body an incredible mind. We are able to dig deeply into physical things and find out properties of this physical world. We learn about the physical world but it seems like it stops there. Biochemistry has taught us the miraculous design of the human body. I gave a message about that, especially concerning the eyes. But still it's incredible that from grade school to higher education, evolution is still taught as the source of life and that this physical world is all something that came about by accident. Romans 1:20.

**Romans 1:20** *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:* (KJV)

The evidence of God's creation is in plain sight. It's all around us. You could look at any part of the human body and ask yourself, could this have been designed or come about by accident with no design? Look at the hand, we have fingers and an opposing thumb, why don't we have an opposing big toe? Because the hand was designed to pick up things. What about fingernails? They are handy to have. They are material that continues to grow because they are subject to deterioration and accidents. We can clip the end off without any pain. They grow but the rest of the finger doesn't. You can think of any part of the body and start thinking about the specialty and design that went into that. So how could these things have come about by accident?

Why do we have two eyes? So we can have three-dimensional vision.

Why do we have two ears? So we can determine which direction sound comes from.

Why do we have vocal cords? So we can speak and sing.

My wife had cataract surgery this week and they replaced the lens in her eye with a plastic lens. When you were born you have a lens that God designed which it's flexible and there are muscles that can change the shape of that lens and you can go from near sighted to far sighted. As we get older, the lenses tend to get hardened and God has

designed that as well, that we go through stages of life. He has given us a length of time to live and the experience of growing older and handicaps come that we have to overcome. Now you're given a new lens for your eye and you are given the choice of being far sighted or near sighted and have to have glasses for the opposite because mankind just doesn't design a lens like God does. I could go on and on but this incredible design is too obvious to ignore and yet we do ignore it. Michael Behe who wrote a lot about "Intelligent Design" said:

*Intelligent design is like an elephant in the room but the problem is, there's a sign on the elephant that says God and scientists can't go that way.*

The blindness of this world is so complete and it's in every part of our society. It's in government, it's in education, it's in religion. Just like a black curtain has been pulled down over the eyes of mankind around this world. How could this be unless there was a great purpose behind it? That's the question we should ask. Winston Churchill said:

*There's a great purpose being worked out here below.*

And he was certainly right. Isn't this blindness exactly what's necessary to mask the truth of the Creator God so that man can go his own way and learn all these bad laws and rules. He can follow them and experience this world around us so that when God's Kingdom does come, it's going to be an awesome change that we just can't really comprehend at this point.

Imagine experiencing the coming of God's coming Kingdom after the collapse of this world. What could be a more profound and indelible experience than having that happen? I have four points to consider.

### **1. God is a perfect teacher.**

He knows the lessons that are necessary to produce, humble, beautiful character that He is creating. As I said in a previous message, God's knowledge is infinite. Turn to Psalm 147:5.

**Psalm 147:5** *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.  
6) The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.  
(KJV)*

God's knowledge really is infinite, I think you can see that anywhere you look. Romans 11:33 is another scripture that I would like to cover.

**Romans 11:33** *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!  
34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?  
35) Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*

36) *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen. (KJV)*

Maybe one last scripture in Job 36:22.

**Job 36:22** *Behold, God exalted by his power: who teaches like him? (NKJV)*

No one teaches like God. God knows the lessons that each of us need. He knew what Job needed. Job seemed like a perfect righteous person and God knew there was a problem there. It took a tremendous learning experience that He allowed Job to go through. The lesson was learned and Job came out the better for it.

## **2. The evil we experience in this life is for building beautiful character in us.**

I'd like to turn to Hebrews 12:2.

**Hebrews 12:2** *... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

3) *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

4) *You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

5) *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;*

6) *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

7) *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

8) *But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

9) *Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

10) *For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

11) *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (NKJV)*

## **3. We are such a tiny minority of people to whom God has given this blessing of really understanding this blindness, the purpose of it and that this blindness has been removed so that we can see God's plan and what He is doing on this earth.**

We need to be truly humbled and thankful for this gift that God has given us, of knowledge that He has withheld from the world. There's no room for any kind of

intellectual vanity because what God gives us—this understanding—is a gift from God. Isaiah 57:15.

**Isaiah 57:15** *For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (NKJV)*

In 1 Peter 5:5.

**1 Peter 5:5** *Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*  
6) *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time ... (NKJV)*

The last scripture along that line is Matthew 18:3.

**Matthew 18:3** *and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4) Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NKJV)*

#### **4. As this blind world crumbles around us we have to do all we can to look to the future, to God's coming Kingdom.**

Realizing that the world is blind and can't see and God has shown us what is coming. If I were in the world right now, I would really have no hope. I see what's happening to our country and the world around us. We have this hope. Micah 4, a few scriptures about what we know is coming.

**Micah 4:1** *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it.*  
2) *Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*  
3) *He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. (NKJV)*

Right now, we have monstrous hordes of weapons and atomic warheads. These will be gone. 1 Corinthians 15:49.

*1 Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*

*50) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.*

*51) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—*

*52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

*53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*54) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*55) O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"*

*56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.*

*57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (NKJV)*

Finally in Revelation 21:1

**Revelation 21:1** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

*2) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

*3) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

*4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (NKJV)*

There will be no more fear. All these weapons will be done, the evil spirits will be bound and it will be a wonderful time that is coming. These words are true and faithful. We have to meditate on them and keep them in mind. We have to realize that God, in His wisdom, has ordained these experiences that we are going through. He knows what each and every one of us needs to learn. He knows the lessons that we need and we need to realize where this world is going, the way it's going. Mankind has to learn what God has to teach us.

*Without a winter, spring could never be so beautiful.....*

and I think this is the big lesson of life.