



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

January 14, 2018 Winter Quarter Volume 37 Lesson 7
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

IMPARTIAL KINDNESS

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Matthew 5:43-48*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

The life of Jesus motivates all true born-again Christians to exercise the Fruit of the Spirit.

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (Galatians 5:14).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. Jew or Gentile, the foolish, ignorant or unlearned, the philosophical, the theologically minded, or the learned, are born into sin. Salvation is an open invitation (*Acts 10:34; Romans 2:8-13*).
2. The “fear of the Lord” means Jesus is consistent and will never contradict Himself (*Isaiah 11:1-5*).
3. When God became man, so did the Word. The Word came with a name: Jesus (*Matthew 1:21; John 1:1-2, 14*).
4. Jesus did not come to subvert, abrogate, annul or invalidate the Law of Moses. He came to fulfill the Law, to embody truth to the Gospel and *His Word (Hebrews 13:8)*.
5. How should true born-again Christians behave in the House of God? If one does not love and respect one who you see, how then can one love God who is a Spirit? (*Psalms 55:12-14; I Timothy 3:15; I John 4:20-21*)

BACKGROUND SETTING:

There is no contradiction between the Old and New Testa-

ment doctrines; the New confirms the intent of the Old. Jesus authored both! God imposed laws upon His people to instill a reverence for Him in the heart. Through strict mandates, God required that Israel have a distinct separation from surrounding cultures, and any irreverent acts. The Law served its purpose but it was temporary and limited. The God of the Old Testament is the same God in the New Testament, the difference being God’s name is revealed: Jesus. The Spirit of the Old Testament is the Holy Ghost in the New Testament: Jesus. Jesus gave assurance that the Gospel was permanent and everlasting. Therefore, redemption would only occur in Christ because the end of the Law is Jesus Christ (*Romans 10:4*). Hence, we have the will of God regarding the behavior of the Body of Christ upon the earth. The believer’s sustainability lies in the confidence that Jesus is the Spirit of truth and does not change. In today’s scriptural lesson, Jesus expounded the true sense of *His Word* on all issues, for all people, and for all times. In this church, the wholesomeness of the Word of God is preserved through a discerning Spirit. Discern *His Word* and not dissect it. Dissecting *His Word* with surgical precision gives rationale an opportunity to mislead.

LESSON SUMMARY:

Jesus addressed the unbecoming behavior of the Synagogue and included Publicans in the mix. Jesus admonished Israel for their hypocrisy, failing to embrace and teach themselves of the very things they accused others of violating (*Romans 2:1-6, 17-25*). Can an “inner circle” (monarchy, hierarchy, oligarchy, and the like) truly benefit the Body of Christ? No. Will preferential treatment or favoritism ever fully unite? No.

In Jesus, the playing field is level for all. Believers and unbelievers alike need to be treated with genuine longsuffering, kindness, fairness, respect, and “without dissimulation” (*Romans 12:9*). Entrance into the Kingdom of God is not based on a degree of excellence in anything, but solely on one having the Spirit of obedience towards God.

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