

## MILLSTONE

### Who is the man that needs to put a millstone around his neck

Bertie Brits

August 14, 2016

#### GREETINGS

It is a blessing for me to serve you this message on the goodness and the love of God. Our vision is to see you being established in the grace of God and also provide a platform from where you can be fed with the Good News. Our vision is for you to have your own personal relationship with God where you can experience the power of God that brings forth peace and joy in your life.

Father, I want to thank You so much for Your kindness and Your goodness. I want to thank You for Your mercy and Your grace. I want to thank You that You embrace us, You love us! Your goodness is towards us. Thank You that You are for man. You are here. You have declared Your love towards us to the point that we can have boldness in knowing You will bring forth Your life in us. This service belongs to You. The message is Yours and thank You that I can preach it with boldness. Amen

#### COMMUNION

I want to start off by reading from Isaiah 53 before we take Communion. The purpose of this is for you to be mindful of what Christ has done for you as well as for groups that gather in their homes so that they can just minister to one another.

*Isaiah 53:*

*1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*

*2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness (beauty); and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

*3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*4 (Why? Because) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

*5 But he was wounded for our transgressions...*

What he is talking about here is so, so powerful! He says, "When the Lord, Jesus Christ came to the earth, walked on the earth and was hanging on the cross, we saw no beauty in Him. We looked down on Him. Men, then, saw Him as one who was despised and smitten of God, under the curse, not blessed by God and actually as God's enemy."

It was going so bad with Him, especially when hanging upon the cross, that no man could think that this could ever be the Son of God. He became sin to the point that the sun stopped giving its light. That is what took place there.

It says, "Who has believed our report?" What this report says wasn't actually preached in the Church. The report is when Jesus was hanging upon that cross He was carrying our sickness. He was carrying our affliction. He was actually carrying our life which was a life, should it be judged by the Law, looked like despised of God, afflicted of God.. We could look at the life that Jesus had while on the cross and we could say, "How would God relate to a man that feels so terrible that he thinks that God has deserted him?" That's why Jesus prayed. He prayed, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" If you read Psalm 22 where that was quoted from you would see that God never forsook Jesus but He was actually in the place where we are.

When your car breaks down, the first thing that comes to a lot of people's mind is, "Oh, God, why are You not here? Why aren't You helping?" If somebody gets cancer and dies, "God, why have You deserted us? Why are You not here?" It's just talking about our life. That's what it talks about. Jesus was carrying our life. We should not look at Jesus and ask, "Why has the Father deserted Him?" We should look at Jesus and say, "That's my life and let's see how God would relate to a man that feels that God has deserted him, that hangs upon a cross, that's going through a very difficult time, and portraying our life, that carries so much sin that the sun stopped giving its light. How did the Father relate to Jesus? Even when He entered death, how did He relate to Him? He raised Him up from the dead. He conquered the sin He was carrying. He conquered His death and gave Him a place at the right hand of the Father in majesty, in glory! He glorified Him and He preserves His life eternally. That is God's word for us!

So if you are at a place where you feel, "Yes, but I have this sin. I have all those kind of things. What will God say?" Well, look at Jesus and you will see what God says about your life and how He will deal with you in the midst of your sin. His promise to you, in the midst of the deepest darkness you can be in, is, "I will raise you up! Just trust Me!" That is what we celebrate in the death of Jesus Christ. So when we look at Him when He was hanging on the cross, we can say, "In the fact that He died and in the fact that His body was broken, we are seeing that the body, the enslavement of sin, and that whole thing that we lived in fear was broken forever.

When His blood flowed, it talked about the end of our old life where we lived in fear and when we were being tortured by being afraid of God not knowing how He would deal with us or how we would have eternal life. And here God comes and shows us the life of Jesus and demonstrates in that life how He will deal with us. Isn't that beautiful! That is what we celebrate in the Communion.

What puts you in Christ? If we think of Jesus hanging upon the cross, dying for you, what do you have to do to be in Christ? It is very simple! You would have to have sin. If you don't have sin, you cannot be in Him because Jesus became sin. So if you have sin, then you are in Christ, upon the cross. So, who qualified to be in Christ upon the cross two thousand years ago? All of mankind! That's one of the beautiful things that the Apostle Paul comes and reveals to us and what Jesus also revealed to us. All of a sudden it is not Jew and Gentile anymore. It is all about all people. All people qualify for what Christ has done because all were included into the cross. What included us? What caused us to be in Christ? It is the fact that we had sinned and He became sin. That is what puts us in Christ. What gives life to us is when we can believe that His death is our death and His resurrection is our resurrection. That is what brings forth the new life in us... believing this Truth.

Father, I want to thank You for the body of Jesus that was broken and for His blood that flowed so that we can have a vivid, clear, picture and message of how much You love us! Thank You, Lord, for the body and the blood that You provided. Amen

## **TODAY'S MESSAGE**

### **MILLSTONE**

#### **Who is the man that needs to put a millstone around his neck**

**Bertie Brits**  
**August 14, 2016**

Glory to God! Isn't it wonderful that we can know that the Lord is the one Who leads us and He is the One who gives us life! Glory to God!

Today I am going to talk a little about it what it means when the Bible says that a person who causes offense or causes someone not to believe in Jesus, that he should actually take a millstone, hang it around his neck and cast himself into the depths of the sea. You might say that you don't want to listen to this because it sounds too depressing! I want to tell you that this message is going to bless you. It is the good news of Jesus Christ. It actually all about what Jesus came to do upon the cross. It's all about being set free from the law. It's all about God bringing forth fruit in us and how we can experience the victory of the cross in Jesus. It doesn't have anything to do with somebody who has offended a child or something like that.

The reason why I would preach about this is very simple. When we say that it is better for a person, that causes offense, to take a millstone, hang it about his neck and cast himself in the depths of the sea and we can say that Jesus actually said that, what a statement like that actually does is it paints a picture of something worse than death that can happen to a person. It brings forth the idea of people of God being so angry with somebody if he has done something wrong or when he offended somebody that he would actually... we wouldn't know what it actually means but we think of an eternal fire where God will torture that person forever and ever. It is like what I have said jokingly many times when I said there is a separate hell just for banks or a tax man, where it is harder because the way they take your money is just amazing. We have this thing if somebody caused an offense then there is this hell is going to be burning and there will be a hotter place for him and God is basically going to take joy in some kind of form in how this person suffers because he has come and he has oppressed the people of God.

Let's look at how God dealt with people who were persecuting the church. There was a guy who persecuted the church that was a terrorist. He was killing the church and his name was Paul the Apostle. He terrorized the church. He murdered the church and God appeared to this terrorist called Saul and explained the Gospel to this guy. Then he became Paul the Apostle. Many people say that Jesus appeared there on the way to Damascus ready to murder Paul. That is not true. God's plan is never death. God's plan is always life. God's plan is always repentance and helping somebody.

God was looking at the Apostle Paul and He knew what was going on in his heart and He said to Paul, "I see that it is difficult for you to kick against the prodding that is in your heart that comes from the Holy Spirit." That's what the bible says and it says, "Since it is difficult for you to kick against what I am telling you, it isn't easy anymore, it is difficult. It's kind of like you want to give in. I see that and yet you are under the pressure of all these people who are making havoc of the church and following your traditions, I see what is in your heart and I see that there is a little bit of room that I can come in and speak to you." God made use of that opportunity.

I remember one day God preaching that God slapped Paul from his horse. I would believe that and somebody said, "Bertie, can you show me a verse in the Bible that says that?" Do you know what? There is not such a verse. It's just something we made up. God never slapped anybody! There's no such a verse in the Bible! If you can find it, please show it to me. There is no such a verse.. If you read some commentaries you will see that it talks about Paul at certain time of the day was praying and the Lord was speaking to him. God is always kind. He is always gentle. He always wants people to have life and an abundance of life.

Those of you who have listened to my message of Lazarus and the rich man, this will be easy for you to understand. I also want to say this. If you slotted in for the first time, I just want to apologize because it is going to be a little bit of a theological teaching but I am sure if you just listen and have an open heart the Holy Spirit will declare to you what is going on. The reason I preach this is so that we can have the correct view about God as pertaining to this passage. If we have this thing that it would be better for that person or it is better for him to put a millstone around his neck and be cast into the sea because it paints a bit of a picture of a hateful God. The moment we have that, our hearts cannot really trust God.

We need to be at a place where when we do something wrong and we know that what I've done wrong will cause people to be against me. It might be a shameful thing or anything like that, that we can say at least we know there is one person who understands me and will even love me even if what I have done is willful and He will care for me with all of His life... and that is God. That's where we need to be. We shouldn't have this thing where there is fear in our heart when we think of God and when we think of our sins. When you think of sin and you think of God, you think of the one who protects you against the condemnation and the guilt and the death that sin brings. God is for us and not against us and any with teaching that puts God in a bad light, we are at a place where we can be tempted to believe that lie and be led astray into a place where we cannot actually trust God.

When you cannot trust somebody, then you are going to fall back on to your own ability and you are going to trust your own ability to get yourself out of that situation and that is going to destroy yourself even more.

Luke 16 talks about the rich man and Lazarus. We have seen the whole context of Luke 16 as there was a rich man and there was Lazarus and the rich man didn't give any food to Lazarus. God knew that he wasn't generous and because he wasn't generous, when he died, then he opened up his eyes in hell and he was burning in this fire. Then Abraham and the people who were on the other side in heaven, could look at him and could do nothing about it and he couldn't come out of there. He would be in this eternal torture and there was Lazarus and he went to heaven. That is the picture we had and when we look at that we are actually scared. We feel, "My God, I hope I'm generous enough. I hope I do good enough because I don't want to go to hell. Hell is eternal and nothing can take you out of that and you are scared.

In the meantime, this passage doesn't talk about that at all. If we want to take this literally, we must say that we are saved from hell by our generosity. In other words, if you give money to the poor you will be saved from hell and if you are poor now, on the earth, you will automatically go to heaven. If you read this literally that is what you will get and take from it. If you go and look at the rich man speaking to Abraham, he said to Abraham, "Abraham, I am in this terrible place. Send Lazarus. Lazarus is in the good place." He said, "When you were on the earth, you had all the good things and Lazarus had the bad. Now you have the bad and he has the good. If we take it literally like that, that means that all people who are poor automatically go to heaven and all people who are rich automatically go to hell. That is what it means if we take it a face value. But that is not what it means.

If we want to just take it for face value, that is what it means. What it talks about is the Jews and the Gentiles. The rich guy talks about the Jews who lived richly in all the information and all the prophetic words that God gave about salvation that was to come. The job of the Jews was, basically, to bring in the Gospel to all the Gentiles because the promise was to Abraham that in him all the nations shall be blessed. But what the Jews did was they took the prophetic words about the Messiah and the salvation message just for themselves and they didn't want to include the Gentiles. They said that these Gentiles are just sinners. If you look at this parable, you will see that Lazarus does talk about the Gentiles. You remember the story where the Greek lady came to Jesus and said, "Jesus, my daughter has demons and she needs freedom." Jesus said to her, "You are a dog. Why should I take the bread of the children and give it to the dogs?" Then she said, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table."

The Bible says that Lazarus was at the gate of the rich man wanting the crumbs that come from the master's table. That's what Lazarus wanted. So it talks about this rich man, Lazarus, and very interesting, it says the angels carried Lazarus to the bosom of Abraham. The word angels there, if you go and study it out in the Greek, it means preachers or pastors. That's what it means. So what it talks about is the Gentiles that will get saved and get delivered from bondage and will be in the bosom of Abraham which means means in the heart of Abraham, which was, Abraham believed that in him all the nations shall be blessed because of God's promise. That's what it means.

So the rich man and Lazarus was actually God saying to the Jews that there is going to come a time when the Gentiles will inherit what was promised to Abraham. You will look at it and you will be in flames and you will be tortured by looking at this blessing that comes to people that you think don't deserve it.

The scripture that talks about the gnashing of teeth, the Old Testament understanding of the gnashing of teeth, the Bible says the righteous will come and bless the poor. The ungodly will look at how the righteous blesses the poor and he will gnash with his teeth because he will say, "It's not right that this guy just gives to the poor for free."

Here he comes with the same torture, the same flame, the same gnashing of teeth and he says to the Jews, "You will gnash with your teeth when you see how good I am to the Gentiles." That's what will take place.

This message was saying, "You cannot be saved by your works. You cannot be saved by the Law. I'm ending that. I'm casting all of that out. That's what I am busy with. That's what I am doing." He was warning the Jews and He was saying to the Jews, "Listen, there is no way where I can save Judaism. Judaism and the Law System cannot be saved. As long as you are in the Law System, you will see pain in your heart because you will see how God is good to those who don't deserve it."

I look at one of my friends who went through a very difficult time in his life. He was a great support of our ministry and then he went through a very rough time. You can actually think of the prodigal son where he went and through wasteful living just destroyed his own life to the point where he got divorced and just lost everything. When we look at a person like that, we kind of understand that is what he brought over to himself. He didn't want to listen. He didn't want to yield to the Gospel. Whatever it was, his life was destroyed and we cannot understand that.

Now, if a person like that came to a town and he abused people there, he stole their money, he did wrong, what would we think if he comes and he experiences the love of God and he gives himself over to the love of God and God starts to raise him up and he becomes the richest guy in town and he prospers in everything he does. It's almost as if you say that is not fair. Do you know how many people he has harmed. Do you know how many people he has lied to? Do you know how this? He doesn't deserve that. There is like a pain in the heart. It is almost like the older brother and the younger brother in the parable just before this chapter in verse fifteen where the Bible says that there was a guy who had two sons. The one worked for the father and the other one was a prodigal who wasted his life and then the prodigal came home and what did the father do? He slaughtered the fatted calf. Then there was pain in the older brother's heart when he saw that because he said, "That is not fair. I've worked to have something and in the meantime this guy wastes your things and you still bless him." What God was doing was He was saying to the Gentiles, "I have a son you don't know of." That is what He basically said. Another place He said, "I have sheep that you don't know of."

The very same thing when the Jews saw how God accepts the Gentiles they couldn't handle that because they wanted the Judaism System. They wanted the Law. They wanted life by, "I'm a Jew and I obey the Laws and I do what is right and because I do what is right, that is why I am going to have life." With that said, we are going to chapter 17 and look at this millstone thing and where that comes from.

**Luke 17:**

***1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!***

***2 It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.***

That comes directly after chapter 16 where He was talking about the Gentile and the Gentiles coming in... Lazarus being in the bosom of Abraham. He said that it would be better for a person to have a millstone put around his neck and be cast into the sea than to have any of these believers, the people who come to Christ, to be offended.

What is He talking about there? Is He talking about a preacher who preaches the Law? Is He talking about offending a Christian? He's actually not talking about any of those. He is actually talking about that which brings offense or that causes you to offend. The only thing that can cause a man to offend or to trespass is to try and find life by the works of the Law. That is what He is trying to say. He was saying to the Jews, "I'm ending the Law System! I am ending the Law System because if the Law System stays in place, it will offend My children. It will cause My children to come to a fall so I am not going to mix the Law with Grace. I am going to end all of that! I want to end that because I don't want any of these people to be offended." You might say, "Bertie, where do you get that?" Let's read on:

***3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.***

***4 And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.***

***5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.***

***6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.***

What is He saying? He was just talking about a millstone put around the neck of a man that would be cast into the sea. In those times, in Syria and in Greece, what they were believing and the saying about the millstone around the neck was if a woman would poison people, this is in the old laws if you read ancient texts and writings, if a woman would poison a man or put poison in the food of people the punishment for her was to put a millstone around her neck and cast her into the ocean. That was the punishment for somebody who would poison someone else. It also said that if someone carried a sickness that could bring a famine to the whole nation, a millstone was put around his neck and he was cast into the ocean. Why? To stop the famine!

What is the famine that is in man? What is that which brings forth death in us? The Bible says, "The ministration of death was written on stones." What He actually comes and what He is saying that a millstone talks about labor, about hard work. He says, "If hard work offends you, it would be better to end the Hard Work System than to have people offended." He is saying that it would be better if we could end the Law System, if we could end Judaism, if we could end all of that lest any Believer be offended or fall away from the Truth and enter into eternal death. That is what He is saying.

You many say, "But how can that be?" I'm going to repeat this. He says here, using a saying of those days, that if somebody carried a famine or carried a sickness or carried poison, he should be put into the bottom of the ocean." Just before that He was talking that He is ending the Law System that couldn't bring forth life. He was ending the death system and the Jews needed to understand that. He is coming to end the Law. He is coming to take away the "special" right of the Jews. That is what He is coming to take away and He is bringing in salvation as a free gift! He wants to wipe away the Law completely lest the Law be an offense to the people that believe. That is what God said.

He goes on and He uses a great example. He said to the disciples, "Let me basically explain to you what this is all about.. If your brother sins against you, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, continue to forgive him for the same sin. You shall forgive him. What happens if you bring such a Law to a person? You find you cannot do it. It's like if I took a bucket of sweets and I put it high up into these pellets here and I say, to my kids, "You are not allowed to take some of those sweets." Do you know what is going to happen? They are going to climb up there and they are going to get it! Why? Because a Law brings forth sin in you. A Law brings a power in you that causes you to carry the fruit of death. That is what happens. Jesus uses the same thing here. These disciples thought they were very smart and they were forgiving enough. They were forgiving three times in a day but Jesus comes and raises the bar and He says, "I want to explain to you what I am talking about. I'm going to bring forth something that can bring offense to you." What He did was He said, "Let Me see you forgive seven times a day for the same thing!" The first thing they said was, "Oh, my gosh, Lord, I cannot forgive seven times! Increase my faith. (In other words, increase my ability and my willpower that I can use willpower to obey Your Law and that I can do it.) Increase my power to do this!" You know what Jesus said. He was talking about the millstone and casting the millstone into the ocean. Remember, this is just the next verse.

***6 And the Lord said, If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might souy unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.***

So He is talking about a millstone and a sycamine tree (In Afrikaanse, a moerbeiboom) as the same thing and the end of it being planted in the bottom of the ocean. What is all this about?

A sycamine tree talks about a kind of a fig tree. What it says is, "Listen, you want to clothe yourself with your own righteousness. You want to clothe yourself with forgiving seven times. As you come and try to clothe yourself with forgiving seven times, you realize that you cannot clothe yourself by how many times you forgive and you find that there is a root of sin coming forth in you. But I want to tell you that if you have the correct faith you will not try to forgive seven times to be clothed by your good works, but you will say to this System that causes you to feel guilty and feel like a sinner and bring forth sin in you, "Be planted in the sea!" and it shall obey you!"

What He is talking about is that if you believe the correct thing, you will have the power to say to the poison that comes to you, to that which poisons you with sin and discouragement and guilt and condemnation, "Be planted in the sea or be removed from me," and it shall be done! What poisons us? What poisons man is the System that says, "I can be saved by good works!" That is all!

When the Bible says that it would be better for a millstone to be put around the neck and for that man to be cast in the sea, He is not talking about a preacher. He is not talking about you. He is talking about God looking at the old Law System, looking at Judaism, looking at all the prophetic words, looking at the Ten Commandments, looking at all the laws and what He was saying is, "Through this, this Law System can offend My children and it would be better for this System to be removed." This comes from chapter 16 where He talks about the pain that the Jews will have in their hearts when they see Judaism being ended and those that don't obey the Law, those who don't believe in the Law and those who are not circumcised, how they are the blessed! God says, "When I come with My love and when I come with My grace, it would be better for Me to destroy the Law System even if it would be painful for the Jewish people." He explains to us that when we get the correct belief, we will be able to have the authority to say to that which destroys ourselves, "Be planted into the sea!" What He actually says is, "When we have the correct belief, which is that God gives us life for free, we will be set free from sin in the flesh. That is what it talks about.

Let me quote another verse in Romans that explains that further. Like I said, today's message is very technical but we also have people in our church who love theology and we need to minister to those folks. I know there are some of you guys who are really blessed by this and it brings God and His goodness to just a different level in our hearts because God says, "It is not good that we have the Law continue to exist and give place for that at all. We are going to end that."

***Romans 8 :13 For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.***

This basically says that if we by the Spirit mortify the deeds of the flesh, we shall live. What it actually says here and what Paul says in Romans 7, Paul said, "When I was under the Law, the good that I wanted to do, I could not do and the more I wanted to do the good, the more sin came up in me." He actually quoted the tenth commandment. He said, "When I wanted to keep the Law that said that you shall not desire, you shall not desire your neighbor's stuff, your neighbor's wife, and all those things, the more I wanted to keep that Law, the more I found that sin revived in me. But when I realized what Christ has done, I could come to a place where I say, "Life is not by the Law! But life is by simply believing in Jesus and that His Spirit will give me life." When Paul came to that revelation, do you know what he did? He actually spoke to the fig tree in his life. He was saying, "I don't have to clothe myself with fig leaves. I don't have to have any of this. When I have the correct faith which says that I don't have to obey any Law to have eternal life but God can give eternal life to a sinner and conquer his sin and conquer his death just by His goodness, by His kindness. When Paul came to that revelation do you know what happened? He was completely set free from the power of sin in his life.



In Luke 17 Jesus came to His disciples and said to them, "Let Me explain how this works. Forgive seven times!" Oh, my goodness, all of a sudden the good that I want to do, I can't do. Lord, give me more strength that I can do the good that I want to do!" "Listen, My disciples, I want to tell you something. It is better that we take this whole system, on how many times you need to forgive, which poisons you with that thing that says whenever you want to do good, you do the bad. It is better to take that the woman who poisons, the man who carries the famine, it is better to take that and put it in the bottom of the ocean. I want to tell you that if you have the faith like a mustard seed, you just need a little bit of the correct persuasion and you will find a power inside you that uproots this whole thing about, "Are you guilty or aren't you guilty? Have I obeyed enough or have not obeyed enough?"

That's what it is all about. It's not about God coming trying to punish anybody. It's all about God coming to kill the man that wants to kill you which is the man who finds his righteousness by his works, the man who wants to clothe himself with fig leaves by works righteousness. This is what it is all about. It is all about God ending a System where we are blessed or where we try to find life by our good works.

This is how I see it. Adam came and he believed that he could have life by his good works. Later on God came and gave the Law, the Ten Commandments. He wrote down the administration of death on stones. He gave to the people, all the laws, all the prophets, everything that spoke prophetically about Jesus. We might ask, "Why all these things about sacrifices? Why all about that? That was a language where God spoke to Jesus so that when Jesus would come as a man to this earth, that he would have physical things in this earth through which the Father could speak to Him in the light of the Holy Spirit that was in His heart so that He could understand how to save man. The Old Testament laws and all those things were never given to us so that we could have life by the Law! The Old Law and all the prophetic words and all the types and shadows and all those sacrifices and ceremonies, were never given for the Jews to keep so that blessing could come their way. It was only given for this reason: So that Jesus, through doing that, could understand how to save us. That's what it is all about. When you read the Old Testament, you need to know that it was written to Jesus as a manual on how to go about to save man. You can read that in Psalm 40. I preached it many times.

The Old Testament was written in that way and God came and said, "Do you know what? Let Me come in Jesus and let Me end the man of the Law. It is better that that man die. It is better that that poison die." And what did Jesus do? He came as a man under the Law. He came as a man who was born under the Law. He became Adam in all of his sin, not having His own sin, He took it upon Him. What actually happened was when Jesus died, what happened? That was when this whole Judaism thing, separation and all those kind of things took place and Jesus Christ was that man! He was that man who carried the millstone!

What was the millstone? It talks about labor enslavement. They had donkeys or even slaves, who were grinding the wheat. This was talking about enslavement, hard work. Taking that weight, that burden, and casting it over into the depths of the sea. The Bible also says that He buried my sins in the depth of the sea. He has carried my guilt far away. What he is saying is that it is better for God to come and end the System of guilt, to end the System of disqualification. That's what it talks about.

Mark 11 talks about Jesus saying, "If you have the correct faith, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree when Jesus cursed the fig tree and it dried up to its roots, but He said you will not just do what was done to the fig tree but you will say to this mountain, 'Be cast into the sea!'" What was that mountain? It was a temple mount where the temple was standing. They were just outside of Jerusalem looking at the temple mount with the temple on top of it and the whole Judaism System. Then He said, "You will say to this System, 'Be cast into the ocean!'" Why? Because it is better for God to take the Law man and cast him into the depths of the ocean. Why? Because the Law man is poisoning His people and causing offense in their lives. Glory to God! Isn't God a good God! Isn't He a loving God!

Even scriptures where we thought that God was just wanting to destroy even the preachers of the Law. If God wanted to destroy the preachers of the Law, how would I have ever gotten saved or got into the Good News? It would be impossible. When the Jews organized Jesus' crucifixion, cleverly organized it, what did Jesus do? He said to those who were nailing Him, "Forgive them. They know not what they do." What did He said to Israel? He said, "Like a hen gathers its chicks, I wanted to gather you but you didn't want to."

I'm sorry to bring this up but we have a theology that says that God got so upset with Israel that He kept His covenant and destroyed the Jews in 70AD. It says that God came and because the Jews didn't keep their part and didn't want the Lord, God came in and just wiped them away and killed all of them and worked in the Romans to cut women up and did other horrible things. They would cut open pregnant woman and trampled the fetuses underfoot in the streets of Jerusalem. They would cry and it said that God did that because these people didn't want to accept Him. Let me tell you something. There were people who didn't want to accept Jesus and the disciples were walking with Jesus in Samaria. They didn't want to allow Jesus to walk through their town. Listen to what the disciples who were called sons of thunder, said, "Lord, should we call fire from heaven to destroy them just like Elijah called fire?" Do you know what Jesus said? He said, "You don't know what spirit you are of. I have not come to destroy man's lives. I have come to save them."

God in His love can look and say, "I want to save somebody but they don't want to." He would see them die and He would not be the One, the cause of their death. He would be the life saver who wants to save but they don't want to. He's not going to go and try and kill people! That is not who God is! I tell you that the greatest person who is persecuting the Grace message today let me tell you that God loves that person! God declares to him His forgiveness. God declares to him His love. God declares to him His kindness and He is not saying, "Because you have done that, I have a hotter place for you in hell!" No! That is not God's heart!

When He was talking about the millstone, when He was talking about the sycamine tree, He was saying, "It is better for the Law man to be drown in the depths of the ocean than for God's people to be offended and fall away from the love of God and die an eternal death." That's what He was saying! He has come to put a millstone around the Law man's neck and cast it into the ocean. God cast no man into the ocean but Himself! He came and He became that man under the Law and He brought death to the Law System. That is our loving God! That is our caring God! When I say that, I get emotional about it because we see a Father Who loves His people so much that He hates what destroys His people! He said, "Even if it takes My life to destroy what destroys people, I am willing to make that sacrifice so that My people can believe." Glory to God!

We have the correct belief when we see this millstone thing, when we see how God has cast the Law man, the man of sin, the man of death, when He cast that into the depth of the ocean and we have the correct faith, we will say to the root of that which brings forth death in us, "Be plucked up and cast into the ocean," and it will take place. How will we say that? How will we say that? Not this authority thing, "In the name of Jesus!" Not like that but the way that Paul did it. How did Paul see that fig tree uplifted out of his heart? When he came to the revelation that he cannot find life by trying to obey the Ten Commandments but he can only find life by trusting God that God can be good to a sinner. The moment he did that, he found that sin started to fall off his life and he started to find the joy of God, in the midst of hard times, flooding his heart, contentment coming to him, truth coming to him and the life of Christ manifest in him. Glory to God. Man I'm blessed! This message really blessed me. I trust that it blessed you as well.

I just feel by the Holy Spirit to say this: If you are at a place where you find destruction in your life, if you are in a place where you find difficulty in your life, I want to say to you, "Go to the Lord and say to Him, "Show me how You have ended the Law man." The millstone was for the neck of the Law man. It's not for any man's neck but the Lawman and that was dealt with in Christ. He killed, He ended the Law System. That is what He has done. Ask the Lord to show that to you. Ask the Lord to show you His faithfulness. Ask the Lord how He can bring forth life to you even in the midst of all of your distress.

This friend of mine that went through a hard time said that he was at a place where he said to God, "God, I'm even worse off than the prodigal son. The prodigal son still had energy to walk home. I am like that little lost sheep. If you don't come to me and pick me up where I am I'm never going home. But I am here. I'm too weak to go home. I cannot stop this sin in my life. I cannot stop these things." Do you know what? God picked him up right there and restored his life. That's beautiful to me. That's the Savior God that we have. I want to say to you that if you are there all you say to God is, "God, maybe I cannot walk home like the prodigal did and I'm lost and I'm cold. I'm out here in the mountain weather, and I'm lost. I'm scared for my life. There are wolves out here. I'm about to be destroyed but I call upon You and I am just waiting here until You find me and pick me up." Let me tell you something: The Bible says that the shepherd will look for that sheep until he finds him. Then he will carry him and bring him home and rejoice! God values you, my friend. Amen.

Let's pray together. Father, thank You so much for Your love and Your kindness. Thank You that You have come and You've put a millstone around the neck of that which plagues Your people and You've cast it into the depth of the ocean. We even see the type and shadow of that when You led the people out of Egypt through the Red Sea and how You've closed the sea on that which oppresses the people.

Thank You for Your love and Your kindness. Lord, in Jesus' name.

Thank You that those watching can experience Your blessedness and Your kindness and Your love right now, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen