

## Doctrine of Restitution

1. The principle of restitution is well established in the *Bible*.
  - A man who flirted with another mans wife was to restore her and stop his sinful behavior. *Genesis 20:7 Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine.*
  - A person who lost his position or job needlessly was to be restored. *Genesis 40:13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.*
  
2. The principle of grace in restoration is reflected in Genesis 42:25 whereby Joseph returned money to his brethren and in 2 Samuel 9:7 when David showed kindness to the son of Jonathan.
  - *Genesis 42:25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.*
  - *2 Samuel 9:7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.*
  
3. In order to protect property and promote safety in Jewish society restitution was an important concept to honor.
  - The total loss of an animal was to be restored either fourfold or fivefold. *Exodus 22:1 If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.*
  - The theft of an animal was to be restored doubled. *Exodus 22:4 If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.*
  
4. Those who took property from others in a violent manner or by deceit were to make restitution regardless of age or sex.
  - *Leviticus 6:4 Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found,*
  - *Leviticus 6:5 Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.*

5. When an act of murder, the death penalty was to be implemented. While the death penalty did not restore life it did put a value on it.
  - *Leviticus 24:21 And he that killeth a beast, he shall restore it: and he that killeth a man, he shall be put to death.*
  
6. Land that was sold could be redeemed provided the surplus was returned to the person who bought the land.
  - *Leviticus 25:27 Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession. 28 But if he be not able to restore it to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubilee: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.*
  
7. Sometimes no restitution was to be sought for an accidental death.
  - *Numbers 35:25 And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil.*
  
8. Prompt restitution of property was to be made without pretense of ignorance.
  - *Deuteronomy 22:1 Thou shalt not see the brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother. 2 And if thy brother be not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house, and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again.*
  
9. Many wars have been fought over the proposed restitution of land.
  - *Judges 11:13 And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those lands again peaceably.*
  - *1 Kings 20:34 And Ben-hadad said unto him [King Ahab of the northern nation of Israel 874 BC - 853 BC], The cities, which my father [predecessor] took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria. Then said Ahab, I will send thee away with this covenant. So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away.*

10. A son named Micah who stole money from his mother rightfully restored it to her.

- *Judges 17:3 And when he [Micah] had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.*

11. A willingness to make restitution when proven to be guilty of taking something unauthorized is the sign of a righteous heart.

- *1 Samuel 12:3 Behold [Samuel said], here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you.*

12. When presented with what he thought was a case of injustice David declared a fourfold restoration was to be made. Such was his innate sense of righteousness.

- *2 Samuel 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.*

It is interesting that when Zacchaeus was converted he offered to make a fourfold restitution. Perhaps he had been stealing sheep.

- *Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.*

13. An unauthorized seeking of restitution is a violation of the principle of righteousness as Mephibosheth discovered.

- *2 Samuel 16:3 And the king said, And where is thy master's son? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he [Mephibosheth] abideth at Jerusalem: for he said, To day shall the house of Israel restore me the kingdom of my [grand] father [Saul].*

14. Those that are in a position of political leadership must uphold the principle of just restitution of property and favor the poor.

- *2 Kings 8:6 And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now.*

15. Those who have exploited God's people in time of poverty and sorrow should be confronted with their wickedness and exhorted to restore what they have taken as Nehemiah exhorted the people of his generation with positive results.

- The Exhortation. *Nehemiah 5:11 Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them.*
- The Positive Results. *Nehemiah 12 Then said they, We will restore them, and will require nothing of them; so will we do as thou sayest. Then I called the priests, and took an oath of them, that they should do according to this promise.*

16. The book of Job teaches the wicked shall not prosper and whatever ill gains there are must be restored.

- *Job 20:4 Don't you realize that ever since people were first placed on the earth, 5 the triumph of the wicked has been short-lived and the joy of the godless has been only temporary? 6 Though the godless man's pride reaches to the heavens and though his head touches the clouds, 7 yet he will perish forever, thrown away like his own dung. Those who knew him will ask, 'Where is he?' 8 He will fade like a dream and not be found. He will vanish like a vision in the night. 9 Neither his friends nor his family will ever see him again. 10 His children will beg from the poor, for he must give back [restore] his ill-gotten wealth. (New Living Translation)*

17. As there is physical restitution so there is spiritual restitution as well. Sin comes to rob the soul of the joy of salvation. Sin comes to render verdicts that are unjust. Spiritual restitution reverses these perversions.

- *Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*
- *Isaiah 1:26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.*

The grand objective of spiritual restoration is to bring a soul to a place of repentance and renewed service.

- *Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

18. While certain acts of stealing are understandable they are still punishable. In some cases sevenfold restitution is required.

- *Proverbs 6:30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; 31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.*

19. Because the Jews robbed God of sacred time He sent the nation into exile in Babylon only to restore them to grace and favor seventy years later.

- *Jeremiah 27:22 They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place.*
20. In addition to physical and spiritual restitution there is medical restitution to enjoy according to the mercies of God.
- *Jeremiah 30:17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.*
21. In order to give hope to the unrighteous God has promised to give longer life to those who will make restitution.
- *Ezekiel 33:15 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.*
22. One of the greatest acts of restoration is associated with the greatest Messianic prophecy ever given.
- *Daniel 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*
23. Physical, spiritual and medical restitution is united with divine financial restitution based upon the great mercies of our so great God.
- *Joel 2:25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*
24. The principle of restitution to righteousness in all areas of life is associated with the coming of the Messiah whose forerunner was to be Elijah. Fulfillment was found in the person of John the Baptist.
- *Matthew 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.*
25. The restoration of the kingdom to Israel may have been conceived in physical materialistic terms initially by the disciples of Christ but when the Spirit came and they began to preach the gospel of the kingdom they proclaimed that Jesus does indeed make restitution for sin's entrance into the world as individuals are born again into His kingdom.

- *Acts 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

### **Characteristics of the Kingdom which the Apostles Preached**

- *Resurrection of Christ. Acts 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:*
- *The Person and Work of Christ. Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*
- *The Necessity of Suffering. Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*
- *The Superiority of the Kingdom. . Acts 19:8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.*
- *The Present Reality of the Kingdom. Acts 20:25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.*
- *The Kingdom is all about Christ. Acts 28:23 And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.*