

Human Values - Lesson 5

By this time, most of you remember that there are five basic human values exist and many sub-values associated to each of these basic values. So far, we touched on four of those basic values, Truth, Love, Peace, and Right Conduct/Right Action in our earlier lessons. Today, let's learn about Non-Violence, the fifth basic value.

Non-Violence is the ethical principle of respect for all beings. The root meaning of this word is not causing hurt or injury to others by being benevolent. Non-Violence is not restricted to the physical aspect alone but includes thought, word, and deed. Truth expressed in right action, lovingly with peace, results in Non-Violence.

Today's lesson is on -

Human Value: Non-Violence

Sub Value: Not Hurting Others

Objective: One should always help others and never hurt whether by Thought, Word or Deed

Quotation: "Ahimsa means not to injure any creature by thought, word or deed, not even to the supposed disadvantage of this creature" –
Mahatma Gandhi

Story – Bhakta Jayadeva

Bhakta Jayadeva was a great poet and author of the best known composition, the epic poem "Geetha Govinda". He was on a pilgrimage to Holy places. While traveling, he used to sing sweetly the Lord's glories and was always engaged in the contemplation of the Lord. The king Gowdeswara Raja heard Jayadeva singing, and he was so overwhelmed with joy at his devotion. The king gave Jayadeva a big bag of gold coins as a token of his appreciation.

The bag of gold coins was more of a burden to Jayadeva. While traveling he was attacked by thieves who saw him with the gold. They axed his hands and legs and dumped him into a dry well and ran away with the gold coins. Even then Jayadeva who was in severe pain did not utter a word of curse. Instead, he chanted the Lord's name loudly from the well.

The King Gowdeswara Raja who was passing through the forest with his convoy heard the beautiful words glorifying God. He sent his men and got Jayadeva extricated from the well. The king took Jayadeva to the palace, gave him medical aid and all the care needed. In spite of his asking, Jayadeva refused to reveal how he had fallen into the well or how the wicked thieves cut off his hands and legs. He knew that if he told the king about the thieves, the king would definitely find and punish them. He did not want to hurt them even though he was a victim of their cruelty.

The next day happened to be the king's birthday. The kingdom wore a festive look and the birthday was being celebrated in a grand way. On the occasion the king was distributing money to the poor and the needy. The king appointed Jayadeva to be in charge of the distribution. The poor and needy people were waiting in a line to receive the money. While distributing the money Jayadeva noticed in the line, the four thieves who had cut off his hands and legs. Instead of having them caught and punished Jayadeva introduced them to the king as his relatives and requested the king to grant them more gold coins. The king did so accordingly and sent four soldiers to escort them back to their village.

When the four thieves reached the forest they sat under a tree and kept their luggage of gold coins near them. They repented for their cruel act to Jayadeva. The soldiers were surprised to see tears in their eyes. They told the soldiers the truth that it was they who were responsible for cutting off Jayadev's hands and legs.

The soldiers rushed back along with the thieves and told the king what had happened. The king was angry and ordered that they be put in the prison. But Jayadeva intervened and asked the king to forgive them. He said that because of their poverty they had done that crime. "I am sure they would have realized their mistake by now. Please do not punish them however big the mistake be", he said. At that moment, the Lord appeared in front of Jayadeva and appreciated his merciful action. Also, the Lord granted his legs and hands and blessed him.

Thus, Jayadeva conquered the hearts of the thieves who inflicted much pain on him and brought about mental transformation in them. By his merciful action and nobility, he won God's mercy and regained his health.

Questions:

- Who was Jayadeva?
- What did the king give to Jayadeva and why?
- What did thieves do to Jayadeva?
- Why didn't Jayadeva disclose anything about the thieves to the king?
- What made thieves repent their cruel action?
- How did Jayadeva win God's grace?
- What values Jayadeva had in him?
- What is the moral of this story?

Prayer while taking bath: Cleanliness is an important aspect for all of us. One should do purification of the body as well as the mind during his bath. Purification bath is ultimate if it is done in the sacred waters of some great rivers of India. If we recite the following prayers while taking bath, one should get the above mentioned purification

**Gange cha Yamune chaiva Godavari Saraswati,
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri jalesmin sannidhim kuru**

Meaning:

In this water, I invoke the presence of holy waters from the rivers Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Saraswati, Narmada, Sindhu and Kaveri

Guess the picture - Connect the dots and color it

