

Human Values – Lesson 9

We have been learning that there are five basic human values essential for everyone. Those are Truth, Love, Peace, Right Action, and Non-Violence.

Love is the basis for all the values. Love is a spontaneous reaction. It is the power of love which causes one person to wish happiness for another and take pleasure in their welfare. Love is unconditional and positive regard for the good of another. It is giving and un-selfish. Love is essential for children to grow up healthy in mind and body.

Today's lesson is on -

Human Value: *Love*

Sub Value: Forgiveness

Objective: To stimulate thought and action concerning Love and Forgiveness.

Quotation: Forgiveness is a quality, which is necessary for all human beings. Forgiveness is Truth; it is Righteousness; it is Veda and it is also true Wisdom. It occupies a royal position of all the qualities that exist in the world.

Every man, every aspirant, and every devotee should develop the quality of forgiveness. This is a divine quality; it is the quality of divinity itself.

Story: Guru Nanak and Sajjan

There once lived a dreaded robber called Sajjan. He was as cunning as he was cruel. He built a temple of gods and goddesses for Hindus, and a mosque for the Muslims. This lured both the communities to his house and at night when they were asleep he stole all their money and killed them.

One day Guru Nanak (the founder Prophet of Sikhism and the first of ten Sikh Gurus) was passing nearby and decided to spend the night at Sajjan's house. Sajjan welcomed him warmly and spread out a great feast of tasty dishes before him. But all the time he was thinking, this man, Nanak looks very happy and content. He must be very rich. Tonight I will rob him of all his money and then murder him.

At sunset Sajjan began to urge Nanak to go to bed early. "It is getting late and you look tired. He said in voice full of concern for his guest. Nanak answered that he always sing a hymn before retiring for the night. Then he sang a song composed by him.

***Hérons and birds of prey are found in holy places
Yet they eat living things
They are beautiful
Yet their hearts are evil***

Sajjan realized that what Nanak said applied to him. He admitted to himself, "I appear kindly and friendly but I am like these birds Nanak speaks of, although I do not eat people, I do almost the same thing, for I kill them." He fell down at Nanak's feet and asked for his forgiveness. Nanak said, "Sajjan, only God can forgive you and God forgives only those who admit their sins openly and regret the wrongs they have done. Tell me how many people have you robbed and killed?"

Sajjan looked very ashamed. "I have murdered and robbed hundreds of men, women, and children. How would I possibly obtain God's forgiveness for all my evil deeds?"

"Give away all you have gained this way to the poor" Nanak said. Sajjan did as Nanak has asked and became his follower. The first Sikh temple in India was built by Sajjan the robber in gratitude to Nanak who had changed his way of life.

It is also told in the epic Mahabharata, that when Arjuna brought Aswathama to Draupadi, after Aswathama had murdered all her children, Draupadi taught Arjuna the circumstances under which a wicked person should be excused. Draupadi told Arjuna that it is not proper to kill a person who is afraid, a person who is humble and penitent, a person who has lost consciousness, a person who is drunk, a person who has broken heart, a person who pleads for mercy, and a women, in general, even if they deserve such punishment.

Kindness, gentleness and forgiveness are very difficult to practice in the face of harsh words and ill treatment. But if consciously and constantly practiced, they become second nature with us. Of all the noble qualities that a devotee must develop, none is more vital than Kshama (forgiveness) or forbearance, a peaceful forgiving nature that remains undisturbed under all circumstances, and always gives good to others no matter what is received in return.

Questions:

- What kind of a man was Sajjan?
- What did Guru Nanak sing?
- What did Sajjan learn from the song?
- How did Sajjan atone for his sins?

Human Value: Love

Sub-value: Willingness To Serve Others

Objective: Before we even begin to serve, the yearning to serve should be there. The willingness to serve others coupled with the devotion to the cause will flower into service in action.

Quotation: Where should you go to seek God? Are not the poor, the miserable, and the weak – Gods? Think of them, work for them, and pray for them incessantly. The Lord will show you the way. In this world, always take the position of a Giver. Give everything and look not for return. Give love, give service, and give any little thing you can – but keep out barter (A quote from Swami Vivekananda).

Story:

The story of Ramanujacharya, the profounder of the Visishtadvaitam (Qualified Non-dualism) philosophy is a great reminder of the value of ‘willingness to serve others.’ Ramanujam was born in the village of Sriperumbudur in India in the year 1017 A.D.

The seat of Acharya at Srirangam was lying vacant without a successor to take over. He was prevailed upon to assume charge. But, before doing so, he wanted to equip himself with the secrets of the three great Mantras. For this purpose, he approached one “Tiruk Koshtiyur Nambi”. Nambi was not willing to initiate Ramanuja easily. He made Ramanuja travel all the way from Srirangam to Madurai nearly eighteen times before he made up his mind to actually instruct him.

After extracting solemn promises of secrecy, Nambi initiated Ramanujam and gave him the sacred Mantra “Om Namoh Narayanaya”. He said, “Ramanuja! Keep this Mantra a secret. This Mantra is a powerful one. Those who repeat this Mantra will attain salvation. Give it only to a worthy disciple.” He also warned Ramanuja if he reveals the Mantra to others, he would be destined to go to hell and suffer there.

But Ramanuja had a very large heart. He was extremely compassionate and his love for humanity was unbounded. He wanted that every man should enjoy the eternal bliss of Lord Narayana. He realized that the Mantra was very powerful. He immediately called all the people, irrespective of caste and creed, to assemble before the temple. He stood on top of the tower, above the front gate of the temple, and shouted out the sacred Mantra to all of them at the top of his voice. Nambi, his Guru, came to know of this, and became very furious.

When his Guru asked him for an explanation and reminded him of the consequences, Ramanuja said, "Oh my beloved Guru! Please prescribe a suitable punishment for my wrong action. I will gladly suffer the tortures of hell, if millions of people could benefit and get salvation by hearing the Mantra." Nambi was very much pleased with Ramanuja's love for humanity and realized that he was full of compassion. He embraced Ramanuja and blessed him.

Ramanuja wanted to serve one all with this mantra initiation and desired that everyone should realize God, even if it meant that he would be condemned to hell. A great saint that he was, Ramanujacharya showed by example his willingness to serve others, even at the cost of his own suffering.

Questions:

- Why should we show willingness to serve others?
- Why not we help, only when others ask for it?
- How did Ramanujacharya display this value in his life?

Sri Venkateswara Stotram

**kamalAkucha choochuka kunkumatO — niyatAruNitAtula neelatanO
kamalAyata IOchana IOkapatE — vijayeebhava vEnkaTa SailapatE (1)**

**sachaturmukha shaNmukha panchamukha — pramukhAkhila daivata mouLimaNE
SaraNagata vatsala sAranidhE — paripAlayamAm vRushaSailapatE (2)**

**ativElatayA tava durvishahai: — anuvElakRutai raparAdha Satai:
bharitam tvaritam vRushaSailapatE — parayA kRupayA paripAhi harE (3)**

**adhivEnkaTaSailamudAra matEr — janatAbhi matAdhi kadAnaratAt
paradEvatayA gaditAnnigamai: — kamalAdayitA nnaparam kalayE (4)**

**kalavENuravA vaSagOpa vadhoo — SarakOTi vRutAt smara kOTi samAt
prativala vikAbhimatA tsukhadAt — vasudEvasutAnnaram kalayE (5)**

**abhirAma guNAkara dASarathE — jagadEka dhanurdhara dheeramatE
raghunAyaka rAma ramESa vibhO — varadO bhava dEva dayA jaladhE (6)**

**avaneetanayA kamaneyakaram — rajaneekara chAru mukhAmburuham
rajaneechara rAja tamO mihiram — mahaneeyamaham raghurAmamayE (7)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7VhEfEud88>

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

R E Y A N

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D A L P E

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