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BIB331: Hermeneutics

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## Week 9

1. Many of the Psalms express deep anger and use very violent language. Is this in keeping with Jesus's teaching about nonviolence? If so, how? If not, why not?

The book of Psalms is a collection of 150 ancient Hebrew poems, songs and prayers that come from all and different periods of Israel's history. Many of these poems are connected with King David (73) and he was known as a poet and heart player. I believe that Psalms expressing deep anger and use of very violent language does not keep up with Jesus's teaching about nonviolence. The answer is within the words itself, it is doing the complete opposite of what Jesus teaches and wants. There are seven important findings that helped answer the question with great details. Jesus himself lived in violent times, but Christ's message in this regard offers a radically positive approach. He unfailingly preached God's unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies and to turn the other cheek. This is not in keeping with Jesus's teaching about nonviolence because Jesus teaches us how to prevent violence and seal it off as its origins by his teach on love enemies. (Mt. 5:43-45) By refusing to see anyone as an allogenes, an alien or enemy, the violence that begins in the mind through the act of labeling is stopped before it can fester. When violence does break out he teaches us how to use transforming initiatives, how to intervene with practical, creative nonviolent practices that

stop the escalation of violence. He shows us how to attack and overcome the structural causes of violence and suffering through civil resistance - nonviolent direct action. In Jesus' day the main pillars of Jewish life and society - Sabbath, Torah, and temple - were controlled by often self-interested elites operating within the Roman imperial context. Jesus modeled how to go after casualties, not just presenting symptoms.

2. The Proverbs express a very simple, straightforward view of our relationship to God. They seem to suggest that if we do the right thing, God will always reward us and everything will always go well. Is this really how it is? If not, should we still read the Proverbs? What use are they?

I believe that the answer to the question is both yes and no. The reason why I state that answer is because I believe that if we do the right thing, God will always reward us and everything will always go well. However, if we do good things can also turn out not in our favor for a number of different reasons and situations. For example, two people can both be good Christian men who do no harm to anyone and both lead themselves in a great way and spread the word of God. But, both go into an interview for the same job and position that is only hiring one. One of those two men will get the short end of the stick even though they have been a great person for a very long time. Some things are simply bound to happen and nothing can stop it from happening because in this world not everyone can win. In this life everyone can have a piece of the cake, the difference is the size of everyone's piece. Certain pieces are destined to fall where they will land whether you are a good or bad person it will help you navigate through life the best way possible. Proverbs are useful and I believe that we should still read them, proverbs are known as sayings. Proverbs give some form of life advice, every language and culture has them and many

proverbs exist in more than one language. It is important not to miss any of the words in most proverbs because the meaning can be lost if even one word is changed or left out.