

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## That's not me...is it?

(Jerry Fite)

**W**e tend to think we would not do the bad things others have done. The Scribes and the Pharisees seemed to think they would not have been like their fathers, thus be “*partakers with them in the blood of the prophets*” (Matthew 23:30). Jesus seems to bring to our minds how we are like our fathers in our own generation by saying, “*Wherefore ye witness to yourselves, that ye are sons of them that slew the prophets*” (Matthew 23:31). Not wanting to receive the message of God’s true prophets will lead to shutting up the messenger in any generation. Jesus’ generation of Jewish leaders would reject, taunt and kill God’s ultimate prophet – Jesus the Christ (Matthew 27:41-45, Acts 3:20-22). Despite their objection, they were like their fathers.

I am no murderer...am I? Certainly not! Yet John writes, “*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him* (I John 3:15). Why does God equate the two? Hate originating in the heart often produces the deliberate taking of innocent

life. Hatred can fuel anger and contempt which lie in the heart. Jesus exhorts all to change the character of the heart that leads to the action of murder. To remind His disciples of this importance He says, “*But I say unto you, that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, ‘Raca’, shall be in danger of the council and whosoever shall say, ‘Thou fool,’ shall be in danger of the hell of fire*” (Matthew 5:22). Angry hatred, leading the tongue to express terms of contempt, can cause one to come into God’s condemning judgment, even the punishment of eternal fire.

Enemies doing us evil can cause us to hate. Instead, we must love our enemies and do them good (Matthew 5:44, Romans 12:20). If we hate, we do not have eternal life abiding in us, just like a murderer. Do not let your enemies make a murderer out of you.

Some think they can steal from family and it is no big deal. But such action can be like being

a destroyer of those who are the closest to you. “*Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, it is not transgression, the same is the companion of a destroyer* (Proverbs 28:24). Dad and mom have provided for me all my young life. Life has become a little complicated as an adult, so I will just take a little of their life’s savings. It is not robbing. It is just taking from my parents who have always provided for me. In reality, you are a destroyer, taking from them that which they need to live on, thus bringing forth their possible financial destruction.

Some do not get too excited about work. Being lazy, they become slack in their work. God says, “*He that is slack in his work is brother to him that is a destroyer*” (Proverbs 18:9). Such action makes you a close companion to a destroyer because not working will make you a poor man (Proverbs 10:4).

We may think we would never do the evil that others do. But we can. Our self justifications may be in reality that which all would reject as contemptible.