

# Adult Disciple Math Court: Module 1

## Lesson 1

### Mary's Premature Eviction: A Biblical Perspective

#### 1.0 Lesson Overview and Learning Objectives

This lesson explores the case of Mary's premature eviction through a biblical lens, focusing on principles of justice, fair dealing, and respecting commitments. By analysing the scenario from a spiritual perspective, learners will understand how faith can guide responses to disputes and illuminate the responsibilities of both parties.

#### Learning Objectives:

- (a) Understand biblical principles related to justice, fair treatment, and honouring commitments in landlord-tenant relationships.
- (b) Analyse a real-life eviction scenario through the lens of biblical teachings.
- (c) Apply biblical principles to determine appropriate "dos and don'ts" in contentious situations.

#### 1.0.1 Case Study #1 (Fictitious); Case of the Premature Eviction

##### In the Matter Between Mary and Joe: An Eviction Dispute

On January 1st, Mary entered into a rental agreement with her landlord, Mr. Joe, for a property located at 15B Coronation Street, San Juan. Under this agreement, Mary paid a monthly rent of \$1500.

On May 17th, Mr. Joe issued a written notice to Mary, instructing her to vacate

the premises immediately. Feeling pressured by this sudden order, Mary left the property right away on that same day.

Mary now contends that this forced move is an unfair eviction, and she believes she suffered a financial loss as a result. She is considering legal action against Mr. Joe and needs a clear accounting of the money she lost.

## **1.1 Biblical Perspectives Relating to the Case**

**1.1.1 Justice and Fairness in Dealings (Deuteronomy 25:15, Proverbs 16:11):** God expects people to act justly and honour their commitments in all dealings, especially commercial ones. This means being honest, fair, and not taking advantage of others, regardless of power or authority imbalances. In the context of a rental agreement, this applies to both the landlord's obligation to provide a proper notice period and the tenant's right to peaceful enjoyment of the property.

**1.1.2 Honouring Agreements and Covenants (Psalm 15:4, Malachi 2:10):** A rental agreement, though secular, holds a principle of covenant. God desires that His people keep their promises and honour the agreements they enter into. Mr. Joe's sudden eviction notice, without adherence to the agreed-upon or legally stipulated notice period, may be seen as a breach of this principle of upholding commitments.

**1.1.3 Respect for Others' Rights and Well-being (Philippians 2:4, Romans 13:7):** The Bible encourages us to look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others. A landlord, while owning the property, has a responsibility to consider the tenant's well-being and legal rights, such as adequate notice and

peaceful enjoyment. Taking advantage of someone's vulnerability or position is contrary to this principle.

**1.1.4 Seeking Righteous Judgment and Resolution (Proverbs 29:4, Matthew 5:25):** When disputes arise, the Bible encourages seeking righteous judgment and prompt resolution. Mary's decision to consider legal action aligns with seeking justice through established systems, rather than simply suffering loss. The aim is to make things right and achieve peace.

**1.1.5 Avoiding Oppression and Exploitation (Leviticus 19:13, Proverbs 22:22-23):** There are strong biblical warnings against oppressing or exploiting those who may be in a less powerful position. A sudden, unjustified eviction could be seen as an act of oppression if it causes the tenant undue hardship and financial loss without proper cause or notice.

## **1.2 Biblical Dos and Don'ts for Landlords and Tenants**

### **For Tenants (like Mary):**

#### **Dos:**

1. Do understand your rights regarding notice periods and peaceful enjoyment, and communicate respectfully with your landlord if these rights are violated.
2. Do seek wisdom and counsel (including legal advice if necessary) when facing an unfair situation, pursuing a righteous resolution through proper channels.

#### **Don'ts:**

1. Do not immediately resort to revenge or illegal self-help actions if you feel

wronged; instead, rely on proper processes for resolution.

2. Do not delay in documenting all communications and events related to a dispute, as clear records aid in seeking justice.

### **For Landlords (like Mr. Joe):**

Dos:

1. Do uphold your commitments and adhere to the terms of rental agreements, including providing proper notice periods as required by law.
2. Do treat tenants with fairness and respect, recognizing their right to peaceful enjoyment of the property, and avoid taking advantage of your position.

Don'ts:

1. Do not issue arbitrary or premature eviction notices without legal justification or the required notice period.
2. Do not use your position of authority to cause undue distress or financial hardship to a tenant.

### **1.3 Interactive Multiple Choice Questions**

Here are 10 multiple-choice questions relating to the Mary and Joe case from a biblical perspective.

[Take the Quiz](#)

**End of Lesson 1 – Congratulations!**

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