

The Way To Be Blessed

(Part 8)

¹ After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” ⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” (Matthew 11:1-6)

Life with all its trials and difficulties may discourage you and daunt you down to go forward and serve the Lord. But the Lord did not promise that we will not have trials, Jesus said in **John 16:33** “*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*” Troubles, trials and persecution we cannot separate from life events, it will come on us and as we accept it in a positive way then God still would bless us through these trials “*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*” (James 1:2-4) The Lord wants us to endure and persevere in times of trials so we will be mature and complete. The Lord wants us through trials to stand firm and persevere and not to go back and deny the Lord who died for us. We might be opposed and persecuted and threatened not to go forward to serve the Lord but still we need not to give up our life and service unto God. If we do so the Lord will stand with us and help us to pass these trials successfully, “*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*” (John 1:12)

John the Baptist served the Lord Jesus Christ and he was persecuted by Herod, “*For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, whom he had married.*” ¹⁸ *For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”* (Mark 6:17-18) John the Baptist was persecuted because he said the truth and stood firm with the word of God, and for that reason he was persecuted and was put in prison. Certain times when you follow God wholeheartedly and walk in His ways you will face trials and oppositions and some people might hate you even. That thing might happen to you, but you should not be discouraged and doubt the Lord and His presence in your life and ministry. The Word of God teaches us that, “*Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.*” ²³ “*Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.*” (Luke 6:22-23)

When John the Baptist was persecuted and put in prison he was appealing to the Lord to help him as he send his disciples to ask Jesus, ***Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?*** John was not able to accept why he is serving the Lord but he is still in prison, and why the Lord is not taking him out of jail. All that may happen and if you read the bible you will find several of God’s true people, the prophets and even the apostles of the Lord were treated in that bad way. That does not mean that the Lord had left them, and that does not mean that they will doubt the Lord and His presence in their life. For the cause of Christ and His word you might be hated, excluded, insulted and rejected by the world and the people of the

world. But the promised blessings and reward for you from the Lord is in Heaven for you as He said, “¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*” ¹¹ “*Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*” ¹² *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*” (Matthew 5:10-12) Trials, rejection and opposition should not discourage us and make us doubting the Lord and His word and power. Reward is waiting for you and me if we will continue to live our lives to the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly. Therefore, “*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*” (Galatians 6:9-10)

Don’t look forward for people honour and appreciation, and don’t be upset if some people get upset with you because you are doing what is right and just. If you really want to walk with God then some people should be sad with you because you are not compromising. But if all the people and everyone are happy with you then you are not telling the truth to them. Jesus said, “*Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.*” (Luke 6:26) Don’t fear men because you will not be blessed by the Lord. “*Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.*” (Proverbs 29:25) And don’t be upset if some people get upset with you, and don’t try to keep people happy because you may think they will help you and support you. If you think like that then you will never prosper, “⁵ *This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.”* (Jeremiah 17:5-6) Only the Lord can help you in times of trials. The people that you rely on and you are doing your best to please them they are the one who will put you down.

It is approved to live a life trusting God fully “⁷ *But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸ He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*” Those who trust in the Lord they will be blessed and prosperous and will be rewarded fully in heaven.

My Dear and Beloved: “¹⁴ *If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*” (1Peter 4:14-16) If you live away from the Lord and being unwilling to do His will that is sinning and that will bring you suffering. For the best choose rather to suffer for Christ and to live your life according to the Lord and His word and you will be rewarded as you pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from all the following sins _____.*
Lord I am willing to obey you and stand firm on your word and declare it clear to the people around me by word and by deeds. Lord provides for me and sustains me and watch over my life. Lord Jesus I am looking forward to hear you saying to me when you come back, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.