

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 37

“10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:” (Matthew 5:10 KJV) The blessedness of God to us is when we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for the sake of doing, or saying or thinking and have concern of what is right, then God will bless us by giving us the Kingdom of God.

“32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; 33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:32-39 KJV) God during the time of persecution is testing us and testing our respond to what we are passing through.

“32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.” (Hebrews 10:32 KJV) Here Apostle Paul reminding the Hebrews, those who were of the Jewish origin who received Christ, and illuminated with the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, how they were treated badly and how they endured a great affliction. In ***John 9*** we can read how the blind man whom Jesus healed and was able to see, was expelled from the Synagogue because he said that Jesus is the prophet who is sent by God as Moses said. That man because he testified that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scripture of the Old Testament he was expelled from the synagogue. ***In the same way we will blocked and cast out from certain privileges when we speak to the people the truth from God's Word.*** Let us read and meditate here from ***John 9***: ***“17 They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. 18 But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? 20 His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: 21 But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. 22 These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. (so here the persecution is very clear, that those who confessed Christ will be put out and got isolated and sanctioned economically, no one can hire them and they will not receive any support). 23 Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him. 24 Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. 25 He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. 26 Then said they***

to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? 27 He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? (See the courage of the newly converted man, he was not afraid to face the Jewish leaders with the truth of God. He was even alone, but he did his part well and was willing to suffer for Christ). 28 Then they reviled him, (they spoke bad against him. They will also speak against us when we face them with the truth,) and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. 29 We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. 30 The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. 31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. (Here the man is defending Jesus that He is not a sinner but a worshipper of God and doing the whole will of God.) 32 Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. (The man was rebuking them for their unbelief, since Jesus did a great miracle but they were not willing to believe in Jesus. When we defend Jesus and tell the people what He is doing and the miracles that He performed for them and they will not believe then they will hate us and we need to be ready for persecution and rejection, boycotting, isolation, etc.) 33 If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. 34 They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. (So finally after he was giving them the Word of God and arguing with them about Jesus, they marked him as sinner and cast him out of the synagogue). 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” (John 9:17-35 KJV) When he was cast out Jesus went to him and comforted him and revealed Himself to Him. In the same way, Jesus reach us to help us and to comfort us when we are persecuted, rejected, expelled out and ill treated.

“33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.” (Hebrews 10:33 KJV) Paul said that to the Jewish who believed on Christ, that they were persecuted, they were made bad example to others, they were spoken bad of them, were treated badly, scourged, made of them a scandal, and they were marked like others who were treated the same.

“34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.” (Hebrews 10:34 KJV) Paul also reminded them that they were sympathizing with him while he was in chains in prison. Further they confiscated their things and had losses materially, but they took that joyfully, and here Apostle Paul told them that you have a better and more enduring substance in Heaven.

“12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” (Matthew 5:12 KJV) The explanation of what Jesus said, ***“for great is your reward in heaven.”*** Why the reward will be in Heaven? Because on earth what we will get of good things might be taken away by those who persecute us. ***For every work of God that you do and for every soul that you will reach out you will get persecuted and the devil will attack you and will use people to stop you and hinder you. You may even get harmed by the same people whom***

you are serving, but for everything you have done good you have your reward in heaven. I have my reward in heaven for every soul that I have reached out and care of. Even to those who are backslidden, even those who are using the Word of God for their own benefits, even those who had harmed me, even those who persecuted me and who persecuted and are persecuting the church, I have the reward of God for my labour and work in their live, for great is my reward in Heaven as Jesus said. God is just and God is faithful to his Word.

“35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.” (Hebrews 10:35 KJV) Now repeated persecution is a source of troubles and harms, and causes daunting, discouragement and frustration and people who are exposed to that they might be easily give up, because they work hard and what they worked is attacked, therefore, their confidence on God and on His Word might be shaken. Therefore, Apostle Paul here is telling them not to throw away their confidence on God and on His Word, because they will be fully rewarded in Heaven.

“36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.” (Hebrews 10:36 KJV) Apostle Paul here is advising them that they need to be patience so they can continue the journey to accomplish the will of God.

I started the journey, I spent on the journey my time, my health, my strength, and my finance, I was cutting from my mouth and from the mouths of my family members to keep the journey going on, until we were reviled, rejected, persecuted by the same people we served and all what we spent gone away, but we continue the journey, thanking God, for now the Lord made it easier, it is online, I don't need to travel and spend large amount of money, time and effort to reach people. The message that they need to hear I am sending to them. One of my missionary journeys to Myanmar that I supposed to travel 48 hours to reach the place without sleep, it became 72 hours because I missed one airplane. I saw the gates of Hades in that journey. The same people, they rejected me after three years and moved away from the Church of God because they found others paid them better. But I am not discouraged, and I will continue to reach new people and disciples them knowing that I have my reward in Heaven for every work that I have done to the Lord. I thank God now for COVID 19, which is the justice of God, that I will not be in need to travel as before but I just need to send the messages. When He said, **“37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.” (Hebrews 10:37 KJV)** That means Jesus will come with His judgment, to judge the wicked who hurt the righteous and persecute them. Jesus will come to stop them from continuing doing so. The Lord will not allow the wicked to prevail, but he will come and will not allow them to continue to abuse. Jesus will come and will free us from those who abuse us. And we should not compromise to please the people to make them happy with us and prevent them from persecuting us. We ought to do and tell what God is commissioning us and we need to trust God and obey Him, even if we are persecuted, then that is the will of God and we need to endure it, knowing that He will come and will sustain us in our ministry and in our journey and life unto Him.

“38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” (Hebrews 10:38 KJV) Here the apostle took this statement **Now the just shall live by faith:** from **Habakkuk 2:4 “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not**

upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4 KJV) The righteous will live by faith in God, even if he is persecuted, reviled, his things got confiscated, he still trust God that He will bring justice, and his trust in God will be manifested as his willingness to continue to reach new people, evangelizing, making new disciples, knowing that He is serving God and not people and He will be rewarded for that by the Lord.

Now the call of God is toward all these workers who are discouraged by persecution and by troubles, God here again is calling you to reach new people and to disciple them. God is calling you back to the service and to do the ministry.

“38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” (Hebrews 10:38 KJV) The statement **“but if any man draw back”** it mean he is not willing to continue because of the suffering and is not willing to continue because he does not want to be hurt again, but that will not please God. The statement **“but if any man draw back”** in **Hebrews 10:39** is parallel to **“Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him”** in **Habakkuk 2:4** which means that the cause of drawing back is pride (**his soul lifted up**) and self-righteousness (**is not upright in him**) that is why that person who is persecuted is rejecting the ways of God and the will of God. When we evangelize we think people should love us, that is our pride and our self-righteousness, but the Bible teach us they will hate us, but we need to continue to love the people, not necessary the same old people who persecute us but new people, new patch, new folk, new group, new families, new area, new country, new nation, or new language, that we need to go and evangelize. Therefore **“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)** We need to accept persecution when we evangelize because that is the will of God and the ways of God.

“39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:39 KJV) Yes we are not of them that will draw back and got lost. **But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition:** means those who are drawing back because of persecution will be treated as lost. Judas who is called in the Scriptures the son of perdition might be not willing to be persecuted when he noticed that the Jewish are targeting Jesus without failing.

My dear and beloved: “39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:39 KJV) That is a warning for us not to draw back, but we need to humble down and accept God's will for us to be persecuted and rejected, and believing that is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is my declaration today: But I am not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Every soul you try to bring to Christ will cause you suffering and persecution, and God needs you to bear it. Therefore let us say it loudly and with faith, and obedience and willingness to continue to serve God: But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.” (Hebrews 10:39 KJV)

We might be blocked and cast out from certain privileges when we speak to the people the truth from God's Word, but we need to endure and go through that as God ordained it for us.

When we defend Jesus and tell the people what He is doing, His death on the cross, and the miracles that He performed for them and they will not believe, then they will hate us and we need to be ready for persecution, rejection, boycotting, isolation, and to be marked as sinner and cast us out of their company. But Jesus will come to us and will comfort us. Jesus will reach us to help us and to comfort us when we are persecuted, rejected, expelled out and ill treated.

For every work of God that you do and for every soul that you will reach out you will get persecuted and devil will attack you and will use people to stop you and hinder you. You may even get harmed by the same people whom you are serving, but for everything you have done good you have your reward from the Lord if not on earth then you will receive in Heaven.

The persecution will direct us toward the will of God. Persecution would harm us but will also perfect the will of God in our lives and will lead us to fulfill the purpose of God.

The Lord will not allow the wicked to prevail, but he will come and will not allow them to continue to abuse. Jesus will come and will free us from those who abuse us. And we should not compromise to please the people to make them happy with us and prevent them from persecuting us. We ought to do and tell what God is commissioning us and we need to trust God and obey Him, even if we are persecuted, then that is the will of God and we need to endure it, knowing that He will come and will sustain us in our ministry and in our journey and life unto Him.

Do not be discouraged by persecution. The Lord shall strengthen us and help us to pass the critical moments of our lives. Therefore, live by faith in God, even if you are persecuted, reviled, your things got confiscated, continue to trust God that He will bring justice. Continue to manifest your trust in God as you are willing to continue to reach new people, evangelizing, making new disciples, starting new Bible studies, and planting new congregations, knowing that you are serving God and not people and you will be rewarded for that by the Lord. “58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV)

My prayer:

Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that made me understand your will for me to be persecuted, and how I need to persevere bearing people's reviles, mocking, economic boycotting, hurt, isolation, and physical assaults. Lord thank you for awaking me that persecution is coming as I decided to go on and serve you.

Confess to God your sins and renounce your fears and your non willingness to be persecuted.

Lord forgives me the following sins _____. Ask God forgiveness for your non willingness to be persecuted, and your love for material things more than God. Ask God forgiveness for your anger, resentment and discouragement toward the persecution that you are receiving. Ask God to give you patience, perseverance and self-control to continue to do what is right and to bear fruit even under the circumstances of persecution.

Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I receive in this message to be a fruit bearer, worker in your vineyard, and to be willing to bear the pressure of persecution, forgiving those who speak and do evil against me. Lord I am willing to cultivate more love, patience, perseverance, and long suffering while I am waiting for your justice, your vindication, your reward and your second coming.

Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives for you, to speak your Word, and to be persecuted for your righteousness' sake, Lord protect them and provide all their needs, Lord save them from the evil hour. Lord work miracles for them and enable them to persevere in serving you. Lord give them joy, comfort, assurance and peace. Lord visits them, comfort them, lift them up, and uphold them with your grace at the time of persecution, as they are willing to evangelize, to start new Bible study and to plant new congregation. Lord reward them and bless them for the persecution that they are receiving and enduring for your name's sake.

Lord bless and sustain our church. Lord help us, protect us, and provide for us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will. Lord protect us from those who hate us due to your Word and who want to revenge from us. Lord spare us hurts and troubles. Lord give to us more of the Holy Spirit gifts to be ready to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the message of the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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