

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 36***

***“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.***

The suffering of the saints is a hard case; they are persecuted, hunted, pursued, run down, and treated as harmful beasts that are sought for to be destroyed; any one that finds them may slay them; they are abandoned; fined, boycotted, imprisoned, banished, stripped of their estates, excluded from all places of profit and trust, scourged, tortured, always delivered to death, and accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

This persecution and suffering has been the effect of the enmity of the serpent's seed, the devil, against the holy seed, the children of God, since the time of righteous Abel. The devil will use people to persecute but we don't hate people because they are deceived by the devil which is using them to attack us. It was so in the Old Testament times, as we read in *Hebrews 11*, ***“35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned (like Stephan), they were sawn asunder (this is Isaiah), were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” (Hebrews 11:35-38 KJV)***

Christ has told us that the Christian church will face and pass through persecution, and we are not to think we are above, or it is strange when we face persecution: ***“1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. 2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.” (John 16:1-4 KJV)***

Also Apostle John spoke about the same: ***“Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.” (1 John 3:13 KJV) So we will be hated as we follow Christ and we should not be astonished if that is happening to us.***

***How about if the world love us?*** You know certain time I am doubting myself because I am seeing good number of people loves me. ***Jesus left us a good example that he was loved by the disciples but He was hated by the world. But not all the disciples loved Jesus, for we know that many of His disciples left him.*** ***“66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69 And we believe and are sure that***

***thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. 70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? 71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.” (John 6:66-71 KJV) In John 6 the crowd who followed Jesus left him. Many disciples left Him. The twelve remain but Judas Iscariot later on will betray. So good if we are loved by the disciples and we should expect that we will be hated by the world or by those who love the world.***

The disciples and the apostles of Jesus were reviled, and have all manner of evil said against them falsely. Nicknames, faked stories, cooked stories, lies, and names of reproach, are fastened upon them, upon particular persons, and upon the generation of the righteous in general, to render them odious; sometimes to make them formidable, that they may be powerfully hated and killed.

Certain times things are laid to their charge that they knew not. ***“False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.” (Psalm 35:11 KJV)*** When you are persecuted they may say about you that you are dangerous, destroying the peoples' life and future, or you are dictator, a deceiver, cult, brain washer, false prophet as had happened to Jeremiah; they were speaking at his back that caused him pain and sorrow, ***“Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?” (Jeremiah 20:18 KJV)*** and as had happened to the apostles and the disciples, ***“6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; 7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.” (Acts. 17:6-7 KJV)*** They accused Jason that he received the Apostles in his house, and they accused the apostle with a heavy charges that they had turn the world upside down, (Yes we turn the world upside down with the teaching of God's Word) and they accused them that they are against Caesar as they have proclaiming another king who is Jesus. Yes we ought to turn the world upside down with the teaching of God's Word.

For example, the world teach certain things about marriage, family, finances, education, child rearing up, but the Word of God teaching something different about all these subjects. I have turned the world upside down with the teaching of God's Word. I have good number of people who hate me because of what I teach of God's World. As well as we proclaim to the people there is another King whose name is Jesus and they need to be loyal to Him. Yes, all the World need to be loyal and subject to Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Bad names and stories been made against the disciples and the apostles and the followers of Christ. This again will take place when no other things could be done against the disciples. These verbal bad words will have injury and harm on the life of the disciples. Those who have had no power in their hands to do the disciples any other mischief, could yet do this using bad words against them. ***Those who persecute us will have no power to persecute us without speaking bad words against us with false charges in order to justify themselves and their attacks against us by first represented us as evil people.***

They will revile you, and make stories against you and bring many evidences against you so they can persecute you. I had good number of people speak bad and harsh things against me but they are not doing more, not because they fear God, but because the authorities here in the place that I am residing. I am protected here indirectly by the government good security otherwise with my weak body I am easily attacked and downtrodden on the spot. But people afraid to harm me because they will be found out easily and punished. Someone had said it, that I will track him outside the country and murder him. The place that I am residing had persecuted me in various aspects but myself was preserved from death and physical abuses. I was threatened in repeated times but not yet receive the physical trauma, and I thanked God for that. But I am full of love and rejoice when I am persecuted. Persecution had confirmed that the message that I am preaching to the people is from God.

Reviling and persecution another aim of it that the enemy, the devil, who is using the people against you, is to discourage you and in causing you pain, he wants you to stop from moving forward to serve Christ and preaching His Word.

*How to face the revile? Learn not to be happy when people speak good about you. Many they admired me, but ultimately they became my Absaloms. As well as don't be upset or affected if they will revile you. Check yourself with God's Word. If you are doing God's Word be glad and rejoice, but if not then repent and come back to God. Peoples' word and opinion are not standard as God's Word.*

*Reviling and persecution is another aim of it that the enemy, the devil who is using the people against you, is to discourage you and in causing you pain, he wants you to stop from moving forward and serving Christ and preaching His Word. Therefore in persecution we need to continue to serve God and to preach His Word that the enemy is working hard to stop us.*

*“10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:” (Matthew 5:10 KJV) What he means here, “For righteousness' sake:” Is on account of righteous and Godly conversation that we have, which brings upon us the hatred and enmity of the men of the world: for when we live as saints, by living righteously, separating ourselves from the wicked and the world, and as we profess that we do not belong to them; setting our lives distinguished from them, then by such they will be reprov'd and condemn'd for their wicked lives and practices; add to that if we will admonish them, then the more they will be angry with us, and such will fill them with wrath and bitterness against us, and they will start to persecute us:*

**For righteousness sake:** may be meant, for a righteous cause, the cause of Christ and His Gospel; for by making a professing of Christ, showing a concern for His interest, and by engaging in a vindication of His person and truths, the saints would expose themselves to the rage and persecution of men: and particularly, we are persecuted for preaching, maintaining, or embracing, the doctrine of justification, that man can justify only by the righteousness act of Christ.

Persecution is either verbal with the tongue, by cruel mocking and reproachful language; or real, by deeds, such as confiscation of goods, boycotting, sanctions, banishment, imprisonment of body, various physical hurts, and innumerable sorts of death as it describes in *Hebrews 11:35-38*.

**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven:** If we pass through that persecution and endure it then for us is the Kingdom of God. Without persecution then it is not for us the Kingdom of God.

We should not suffer for sin that we had done, but for the sake of Christ in preaching Him and defending His deity person being God appeared in the flesh, or in preaching and standing on His Word that He admonish us to preach and to obey.

**When He says, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven, *it means if I am avoiding persecution or rejecting persecution then I am refusing and rejecting the Kingdom of God.***

***“11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake:” (Matthew 5:11 KJV)*** Note, reviling the saints is persecuting them (insult, verbal abuse, scorn, condemn, despise, sneer, criticize, vilify, run down, rebuked, speak angrily to, scold, reprimand, and reproach, mocking, cruel mocking, as we read here: ***“And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourging.” (Hebrew 11:36 KJV)*** I had experienced reviling in my ministry unto God. For such kind of speech God will punish those who do such for their hard speeches, ***“To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” (Jude 1:15 KJV)***

They will say all manner of evil of you falsely; sometimes before the seat of judgment, with hypocritical mockers at feasts and celebrations as witnesses against you, they will bring you to authorities; sometimes in the seat of the scornful as they did to Naboth when they accused him that he had blasphemed God and the king and later on stoned him and his sons so they can take his vineyard from him, .

Let us read and meditate on this real story, how they planned evil against Naboth, and how God through the prophet Elijah sent to them message about the punishment they will receive in killing innocent blood:

***“1 And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. (Now the proposal of King Ahab it seems good. He asked Naboth to sell it to him or to exchange it with other vineyard. Now let us read what Naboth answered him. 3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto***

*thee.* The reason of Naboth's refusal is Biblical and that he really cannot give up or exchange his land with another land. God had given the land to the Israelites and He had asked Moses to distribute the land by lot to the tribes and each tribe to distribute to its clans and families, so what Naboth have cannot replace or sell, but he needed to pass it to his children. If Ahab would ask him to plant for him and supply him with herbs and fruit or to allow him to plant in part of it in exchange of certain income, it might be possible to compromise with and yield to his request. If this case is evaluated by the world, there is nothing wrong with what Ahab asked to do, but according to the Scripture it is not possible to yield to the request of Ahab, even if he is king, because what he asked was against God's Word. So in persecution we might be trying to do all what we can to avoid the clashes and the confrontation but finally when the enemy wants us to break the Word of God then we should not yield to his request. I may allow people to ride on my back, allow them to humiliate me but I will not allow the Word of God to be broken. May be Ahab was not aware of what he was asking, but the devil is aware and we need to be alert of what the devil is trying to make us swallow of his wickedness. Naboth was not after the material inheritance of his father's but was after the commands of God not to be broken to please man, the king. We do all what we can to bear the pressure of the people and the devil that is behind them, but when the Word of God to be broken we need not to compromise and bear the real persecution. **4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.** (Naboth stood his ground and refused to break the Word of God; we too need to do the same), **And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.** **5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?** **6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.** **7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.** (Jezebel is the one who introduced Baal worship in Israel, and who had planned to persecute Naboth who stood on the Word of God). **8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.** **9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:** (She wrote to them that they will accuse and slander Naboth while they are setting false fasting. So they will do it all in the name of the Lord with proper religious atmosphere to deceive the people that they are Godly people). **10 And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king.** (Men of Belial, the agents of Satan to tell faked stories in order to persecute Naboth). **And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.** **11 And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them.** **12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.** **13 And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king.** (It was a false accusation by two wicked persons who cooked a lie against him)

**Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.** (Naboth was not stoned alone, but they stoned his sons with him so there will be no heir to ask for the land) **14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.** **15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.** **16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.** (Here Naboth was dead after he stood his ground. Jesus said about those persecuted that theirs is the Kingdom of God, and not only that, but also **"for great is your reward in heaven."** (Matthew 5:12 KJV) So here the rewards of those who are persecuted are in heaven and not on earth. Upon what had happened, God send a prophetic message to Ahab about what will happen to him and to his posterity because of what he did with Naboth and his sons. God sent Elijah with a heavy message about His coming judgment. **17 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.** **19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.** **20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.** **21 Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,** **22 And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.** **23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.** **24 Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.** **25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.** **26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.** (Elijah was valiant to proclaim the judgment of God on Ahab and his house and that message made Ahab to be afraid of God's judgment) **27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.** **28 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house."** (1 Kings 21:1-29 KJV) Naboth stood his ground on the truth that he cannot give his inheritance that came from the Lord, and that is why he was persecuted. Not that he was after his land but he was after the truth. There is time that we cannot do certain things that people request us, not because of our love for material things but because it is against the truth. So when he refused, a cooked story and a cooked scenario was set against him and he was reviled and scorned and judged falsely and was stoned just to take his land. God sent Elijah to Ahab to announce to him the judgment of God on his

house. Ahab was terrified when he heard the judgment of God and he humbled down and that is why the judgment of God was carried against his descendent not on his days.

God will not leave those who persecute us unpunished. Not that our heart is having anger or grudges against them, but that God Himself will judge them and punish them. Jehu executed the judgment of God on the house of Ahab for the blood of Naboth and his sons, we can read that in **2 Kings 9**, *“22 And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many? 23 And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, There is treachery, O Ahaziah. 24 And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. 25 Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, Take up, and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the LORD laid this burden upon him; 26 Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the LORD.”* (2 Kings 9:22-26 KJV) Jezebel as downtrodden and her blood licked by the dogs *“30 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. 31 And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? 32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. 33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. 34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. 35 And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. 36 Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37 And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.”* (2 Kings 9:30-37 KJV)

#### ***My dear and beloved:***

Now when we are persecuted, 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. I remember when I came to this country for the first time, I applied in a hospital in one city and I went to another city to be examined and tested. I did well in the interview and the practical. But they did not reply to me. So I took a friend who know them to the test center and he spoke with them in their language, and they told him, how you know this person, he told them he is renting in the same place we are living. They told him he is good but we did not let him to join because he is Christian. That incident caused me pain because of delay in employment add to that the further money that I need to spend in staying here, and I am without job and income. So I continue to apply and finally I was employed in other city where I met

my wife. Again in that city in the hospital that I was working I was warned because I was evangelizing, in the same day that I was warned I got another job offer in a government hospital. I worked in that hospital for four years, then I was terminated, and there God told me not to apply to any job, but to sit down and teach and from that day till now I am in the same place. I was thinking how I was terminated, how that took place, and the person who did that because I was also evangelizing in that place. The Lord when I was thinking of that He gave me a dream, and the dream was very clear. In the dream I saw one of our consultants in the surgical department he told me in the dream you are good in prayer and always praying to your God, you also pray our prayers, so pray your prayers and also pray our prayers. So I woke up and I am aware how it came my termination. The same person after few years I heard he died. I never got angry of him, but I believed God used him to fulfill his purpose in my life. After I left my profession I received lot of teaching from the Lord, that many hate me because of that teaching I received.

May the Lord strengthen us and help us to pass the critical moments of our lives that we will not compromise because of our fear from the people or because of our love for material things.

#### ***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 teaching me that is mandatory for me to be persecuted as prove that I am in the truth and preaching and living the truth.*

*Let us confess to God our sins and wrongdoings. 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 help me to cultivate more love, patience, perseverance, and long suffering while I am waiting for your second coming.*

*Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and are willing to live their lives for you and to be willing to be persecuted for your righteousness' sake. Lord protect them and provide all their needs, Lord keep 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, lift them up, and uphold them with your grace at the time of persecution, as they are willing to deal with sin and to do your will.*

*Lord reward them and bless them for the persecution that they are receiving and enduring.*

*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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