

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 39***

***“10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12 KJV)***

***“12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12 KJV)*** Those suffer for righteousness' sake, who suffer because they will not sin against their consciences, and who suffer for doing that which is good they are the one to be blessed. *Therefore for the sake of God and His Christ we need to suffer reproach, for it is really Christ and His righteousness that are maligned, hated, and persecuted.*

*For the sake of God's house and His work we need to bear the pressure of persecution.* The purpose of the enemy of God when he is persecuting us is to stop the work of God, that is why we need to be persevere in the time we are attacked so that the work of God will not suffer harm, and bearing in our minds that God had kept a reward to us in Heaven as we are willing to continue to do the work of God, ***“12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.” (Matthew 5:10-12 KJV)***

***For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you:*** David was reproached and persecuted. ***“For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.” (Psalm 69:9 KJV)*** For the sake of God's church I was persecuted and I bore and continue to bear all the reproach for the sake of Christ, ***“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” (Romans 8:36 KJV)*** Me and my family were heavily persecuted, maligned and blasphemed, ill treated, but we bear and endure it for Christ and His church. For every idol I denounced I was persecuted and ill treated. I was persecuted for denouncing birthday parties, I was rejected when I denounced Christmas tree and Christmas decorations, I was persecuted and ill treated when I denounce Christmas and New Year celebration, I was rejected when I denounce boyfriend and girlfriend, and I was treated in evil way when I denounce father and mother day, Halloween, valentine day and the rest of the idols of this world.

*Put in your mind that for every stronghold of the devil that you denounce, and for every idol that people adorn and celebrate when you remove and reject you will be attacked and fought back by the devil in order to hurt you, harm you and discourage you so that you will be forced to stop and in such a way the people that the devil had deceived will continue to be in slavery. Therefore you need to bear the pressure of persecution so that the work of God will be continued and the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be lifted up.*

***For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you;*** Sometimes those who persecute us they will curse us face to faces, as Shimei cursed David; sometimes they curse us behind our backs, as the enemies of Jeremiah did. They persecuted Isaiah, Zechariah, and others; which shows, that what should befall on the disciples and on us

today of persecution is no new way a strange thing, but this is the lot of the servants of God as we continue our life for Christ.

Jesus said, ***“for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”:*** The prophets who were before the disciples were persecuted, and that gave them excellency; they were before the disciples in time and they were good examples to the disciples in suffering, affliction and of patience, and even to us today, ***“Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.” (James. 5:10 KJV)*** *These prophets of God were in like manner persecuted and abused; and how can you expect to go to Heaven in a way by yourself without persecution?* Was not Elisha mocked for his bald head? They were singing to him, ***“Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head,”*** They sang like that to him because they don't want to see him, so they were singing to him to go up to Heaven as Elijah went up before him to heaven. *Therefore do not amazed or consider it a strange thing when people mock you and speak bad about you.* Do not murmur at it as a hard thing; it is a comfort to see yourself in the way of suffering that God had placed you in. The prophets that previous to us are good examples to honor and to follow, and above them all is our Lord Jesus Christ. The grace which was sufficient for them, to carry them through their sufferings, shall not be deficient to us today. The same grace will help us to persevere in bearing the ministry of God and in living our lives to do the whole will of God.

When we are declaring the whole will of God to the whole world we became the prophets of God. Those who are our enemies are the seed and successors of them who of old that mocked and persecuted the messengers of the Lord, ***“But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.” (2 Chronicles 36:16 KJV)*** And this what Stephen told them before he was stoned: ***“Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers.” (Acts. 7:52 KJV)***

God allow also persecution to test our faith and see how much we are genuine in our walk and our motive with Him. In the parable of the sower Jesus spoke about the seed that fall on the rocky ground, ***“5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.” (Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21 KJV)*** Jesus said those who are persecuted and troubled because of the Word of God they will be offended and got sad. Yes true, the persecution would cause us rejection, financial losses, hurt, waste of time, waste certain opportunities, physical hurts, various traumas, even emotional trauma, material losses, and even may cause us death. *Persecution may cause some people to be turned off and not willing to serve because of the failure that persecution would cause on them, therefore we need to be aware and take a firm decision that persecution shall not cause us to be hindered or offended and turn us away from God and from serving Him.*

From *Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21* we understood that persecution and troubles will have bad effects on the life of the disciples of Jesus when they will not have roots, as the Word of God says, ***“Yet hath he not root in himself”***. Therefore we need to address and answer this question: how the root can be developed in our lives? Because we will be developing roots we will be successfully passing persecution. The following are the steps to develop the roots to face persecution.

1. *Put in your mind that you cannot avoid persecution; you need to pass through it.*
2. *Persecution is essential for you to pass through because the Word of God says the Kingdom of God is for them those who are persecuted.* ***“10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:10 KJV)*** So if you are living your life in a way to avoid persecution then you will be excluded from the Kingdom of God. I am not saying that you need to throw yourself into persecution, but that when you serve God and it happens it is part of the ministry and you cannot quit the ministry or think to stop serving God because of persecution, but you need to continue.
3. *Living and growing on the Word of God:* Now as the root grow in ground and become long to get water and nutrient to the plant, *in the same way you need to grow deep in the Word of God to get adequate and mandatory nourishment to pass through persecution.* God allow persecution so that you will understand that you need to have root in God's Word. The Word of God give you the nutrient that you need to bear the pressure of persecution. Therefore daily reading and meditating on the Word of God is essential. One verse or few verses are not enough, not enough even one chapter, but you need to read more, morning and evening. You need to read, meditate and obey. This will make you ready and strong when you are attacked by the devil. Don't say that you cannot read daily. Why people can follow up the news channels day and night why they cannot keep reading the Word of God to be strengthened.
4. *Avoid worldliness and worldly friends because such things will change your mind and makes you feel that persecution is something odd for you to pass through.* Avoid such worldliness and worldly friends knowing from the book of James that those who are friend with the world are enemies of God. ***“4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4 KJV)*** Friends will teach you to compromise and will influence you to avoid you taking Godly decisions and will ultimately pull you away from the path that God had prepared for you to pass through.
5. *In practicing and living the Word of God certain teaching will appear in your life, like the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the good stewardship, entering through the narrow gate, the willingness to suffer, the life of prayer and fasting; such teachings will prepare you spiritually and materially that when persecution would come you are ready to face it and pass through it.*
6. *Life of prayer and fasting.* Each person need to engage daily in prayer. Daily put on the full armour of God. ***“10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against***

***the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:10-20 KJV)*** Each individual and each family need to get engage daily in corporate prayers, and at least one day per week fasting appealing to God to overcome the present difficult circumstances that you, your family, the ministry and the Church of God is passing through. Finally prayer and fasting and daily putting the full armour of God will enable us as individual and as a church to break through and to continue to do the work of God and be sustained inspite of persecution.

7. *Daily you pray for your wrong characters to be removed* (anger, doubt, worries, depression, laziness, oversleeping, ungratefulness, pride, etc.) these bad characters are the one that makes you reacting badly toward persecution and makes you unfruitful to God and to His Kingdom.
8. *Develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit;* daily you pray for that. ***“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 6:22-23 KJV)*** *Ask God to give you patient, long suffering, self-control, faith, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness, generosity, so when persecution will come you will not react and got offended and retaliate but you will act appropriately to continue your mission to continue to preach and spread the Word of God.*
9. *Pray to be filled or refilled with the Holy Spirit, to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.* The baptism of the Holy Spirit it means that you have the Holy Spirit, as well as that the Holy Spirit have you. That entail that you are controlled by the Holy Spirit.

***My dear and beloved:*** Come now to the Lord in repentance. Confess all your sins and renounce them. Surrender your life in full to the Lord. Four main things from my experience the people are not willing to surrender to God, *First*, in the field of education on what and to what level they need to study, *Second*, to whom they need to marry, *Third*, to which place they need to live, and *Fourth*, the style of life that they need to live.

*As we trust God, He will not only deliver us but as well as He will change the people, even those who persecuted us and will bring them to His side. He will be also reward us and enable us to continue to serve Him and spread His Word all over the world and to the next next generation.*

### **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 see clearly the way that I need to pass through so I can overcome and live a victorious life for your name sake bearing the persecution successfully and in bringing your Word to others and even to the end of the world and to the next generation.*

*Confess to God your sins and renounce your pride, anger, resentment, grumbling, doubt, worries, laziness, oversleeping, worldliness, worldly friends, your unfaithfulness, and ungratefulness.*

*Lord forgives me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_. Ask God forgiveness for your non willingness to be persecuted. Ask God forgiveness for your pride, anger, resentment, grumbling, doubt, worries, laziness, oversleeping, worldliness, your worldly friends, your unfaithfulness, and ungratefulness.*

*Surrender your life and your will fully to the Lord. Ask God to give you strength and power to endure the pressure and the various hurts during the whole trial of persecution. Ask God to give you the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and ask Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and to have you fully to Him.*

*Lord I commit myself to abide with this Word of yours that I receive in this message to be a good example to others around me who do not know you. Lord give me strength and patience to bear the pain and suffering while I am waiting for your miracle to deliver me out of their hurts and injurious acts. Lord I will work with you to develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patient, long suffering, self-control, faith, faithfulness, gentleness, kindness, and generosity.*

*Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and have me fully to you. I surrender my life in full to you, Lord give me the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that I can go and serve you and evangelize and reach others and spread your Word and teach those who are willing to follow you.*

*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 gives them joy, comfort, assurance and peace. Lord visits them as you visited and comforted your disciples and prophets who were persecuted. Lord save them, Lord proves to their persecutors that you are the true God and they are your servants. Lord 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 congregations. Lord rewards 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 deliver us, 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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