

Persecution

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 5:10*

And then 5:11 and 12 adds, “**Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**”

If you are seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, persecution comes with the package. It is part of the suffering we do in our dying to all we are in Adam to become a new creation in Christ.

If you are hungering and thirsting after righteousness as number one priority in your life, you will be persecuted — that is a promise. Without persecution you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, for persecution stems from the righteousness of God shining forth from your being and convicting a corrupt world of its sin. And to get God's righteousness, you must relinquish all your rights, even your anger at the evil treatment doled out by those who persecute you.

Persecution usually comes from those who have started the walk and could not pay the price to complete the journey. Suddenly a friend turns into a worst kind of enemy. You begin to understand why there is nothing good in man and God is intent on making a new creation. **Did you know the Adam man cannot be saved? He can only decrease until the end of the old life and Christ is his life. Those who endure until the end will be saved by becoming a new creation.**

Judas was one of the disciples: one who walked with them for years. He took care of the money so the disciples and Christ could go without purse or script. Yet it was this very one who decided the cross and what it entailed was more than he wanted to pay and became the worst of the persecutors. Can you believe that is the

story of the dear ones who left — Satan filled them as he did Judas and they were part and parcel of the painful persecution.

Please notice in Matthew 5 the sermon on the mount was spoken to the multitudes. In the 60's and 70's the Holy Spirit gave the same message to the multitudes. By this year of 2004 why have the multitudes dwindled down to a handful? Did we not all know we were running a race with only one prize??? Did we all not know that the “follow me” spoken by our Savior inferred we were to go on a journey — looking for that “city of God”, but like Abraham we did not know where we were going? Did we not all hear preached that “those that endure until the end will be saved”? Or was the “come to Jesus” gospel preached that made all of us twice the children of hell — all, that is, except those who got a vision of more than just the door, those who counted the cost and then decided to “go for it”?

Surely, after I met Christ, His truth and beauty made me think it an honor to leave all and follow Him even to my own death. “Give me liberty even at the cost of my life” became my heart's cry.

The scripture explains our dilemma and why we who have endured have seen many a sad and heartbreaking “wash out”. The wannabes became has-beens. Friends, kinfolks and disciples turned into enemies. Teachers and prophets became wolves in sheeps' clothing as truth marched on, the light becoming ever brighter, and the in-part ministry had to give way to the “whole” or “that which is perfect” has come. Or another way of saying it — we had to go from doing to being. No hypocrites, no big shot ministries, no phonies in the Kingdom of God.

The word persecute — to inflict pain from hatred and malignity.

Why is not the modern 2004 church suffering persecution?? God usually moves in the depth of the gospel being preached. If you are preaching a “come to Jesus” gospel like John the Baptist we find a church filled with dead people who have met “the door” and are afraid to leave that church and come out of the stinky, unclean thing, follow Christ by leaving all, dying daily and becoming one with the Father — which, by the way is an answer to the prayer Jesus prayed as He longed to see us one with Him in the place He has gone to prepare for us.

Recently we found a cassette tape of our warfare with “People” magazine as they were hell-bent on publishing the lies told by some of the people who left us. Would you believe some of the most ardent defenders of the truth on that tape later left us and

became the persecutors even though they knew the heartache of those persecuted? One can understand the whole episode of Jesus and Judas only if one has experienced it themselves. The tape is available for six dollars plus shipping.

Personally I expect a great awakening to happen to America as the seed rises that was planted by our forefathers and cuts off the head now ruling over us and we become that nation God had intended for us to be. Of course, this will not come without the persecution from within and from without.

Thy kingdom come, Lord, Thy will be done. Have mercy on us all.



Marie Kolasinski