

Matthew 10:19-20 Faith and Faithfulness

Introduction: The Lord had warned His disciples that persecution would come, Verses 16-18. They probably did not understand at that time. But after the persecution came, they would remember and understand. They would understand that Christ urged them to have faith and to be faithful.

I. The need of faith.

- A. Persecution would come.
 - 1. Jesus said “when” not “if”.
 - 2. They would be delivered up before before the Jewish synagogues and councils and before the Gentile governors and kings.
- B. Jesus counseled “Take no thought.” (KJV)
 - 1. In the Greek He said “Take no overly anxious thought.” (Do not worry.)
 - 2. Specifically “Do not worry what ye shall speak.”
 - 3. The counsel was not “Take no forethought of your sermons.” But “Take no forethought of your defense.”
- C. Earlier He had instructed them not to worry about food, drink, clothing, tomorrow. (Matthew 6:25, 34)
- D. But now He counsels not to worry even in the threat of persecution. (Arrest, beatings, imprisonment, death.)
- E. The point Jesus is making is trust the Lord.
 - 1. Trust the Lord when you and your family are abused and slandered and threatened.
 - 2. Trust the Lord when you are arrested, beaten, and imprisoned
 - 3. Trust the Lord to deliver you--if that be His will.
 - 4. Trust the Lord even if – in His wisdom-- He allows you to be burned at the stake. (And many were.)
 - 5. Similarly when we are ill we are to trust the Lord to deliver us from the illness if that be His will, and also to trust Him if it isn't.

II. The need of faithfulness.

- A. They were not only to have faith in Christ, but they were to be faithful to Christ.
 - 1. Their faith in Christ was to mean so much to them that the most severe torture could not drive them to forsake the Lord.
 - 2. Even the threat of death itself was not to persuade them to be unfaithful to Christ.
- B. Even so today there should be nothing in this world that would cause a saved person to be unfaithful to Christ.

Conclusion:

- 1. Jesus Christ is worthy of every man's faith. He is worthy of being trusted to save the soul. He is worthy of being trusted after we are saved.
- 2. Jesus Christ is worthy of our love.
- 3. Jesus Christ is worthy of our loyalty and faithful service.
- 4. Trust Him and be saved.
- 5. Be baptized and join His church. (Move your membership.)
- 6. Commit your life to Him.
- 7. Be faithful in service to Him.

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