

JESUS ENTRUSTED HIMSELF TO THE FATHER

*1 Peter 2-21:- For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ ^[w]and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, **but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;***

I believe that God has a word for the church from this scripture. Jesus himself is our example in suffering - which means, when we go through suffering, we can look up to Jesus as our example and see how he suffered. It is said that when Jesus was reviled, He neither reviled in return nor uttered any threats but kept entrusting Himself to God the Father who judges him righteously. In other words, though people around Jesus accused him falsely, he did not react back to them but kept submitting himself to God, whom he knew would judge him correctly. The unrighteous judgment of people around him did not bother Jesus. He was not burdened or forced to react to their unrighteous judgment.

First we read that Jesus suffered unjustly. Children, do you know what it means to suffer unjustly? It is when you accept punishment for a mistake that you never committed. For example, when your parents discipline you for an act that you did not commit. God the father allowed Jesus to go through such unjust suffering many times in his life. It is written in Psalm 69-4 that, *What I did not steal, I had to restore*. When Jesus went through such tough trails, do you think he kept complaining about the unrighteous treatment that he received? No he did not. He kept submitting himself to God the father. He knew very well that God will always judge him righteously.

Let us see 3 areas in the life of Jesus in which God allowed him to suffer unjustly. We can see them as 3 concentric circles that surround in our life as well. The first of the innermost circle is Jesus suffering in home, before his relatives.

John 7-1: After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee, for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him. Now the feast of the Jews, the Feast of Booths, was near. Therefore His brothers said to Him, "Leave here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may see Your works which You are doing. For no one does anything in secret ^[a]when he himself seeks to be known publicly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." ⁵ For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

We read here that even the brothers of Jesus did not believe in him. They treated him unjustly. They saw how Jesus did all the healing in secret, yet he was becoming popular by word of mouth. They thought that Jesus was a person who did not know how to become popular, yet wanted to be popular like everyone else. Hence they offered their advice on how to do good work in public, to fulfill his desire to become popular.

If we were standing in Jesus shoes, we would try to answer them back saying, 'Did you not see how I ran away from people when they tried to make me a king? Why do you still think that I seek to become popular?'. But Jesus did not answer back trying to justify himself. He stood there taking all the shame and false judgment upon himself. He would have asked God the father whether there is any element of truth in what his brothers said, His Father would have judged him righteously saying He is well pleased with Jesus. So Jesus was not bothered by their judgment. Instead he replied to them saying that his time has not come to go to the feast.

If we are right before God, then we do not need to be burdened about what others think about us. They are like two sides of same coin. One side is not to be burdened by what others think about us and second side is entrusting our self to Father's righteous judgment. Only if both the sides are present, it makes our Christian life complete. If we kept blindly ignoring the opinion of others without submitting to Father who judges us righteously then we are wrong.

The second circle is Jesus with his disciples. In John 6-66, we read that - *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.* ⁶⁷ *So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"*

When the disciples withdrew from Jesus because of the high standard of his teachings, Jesus did not bother to run behind them to win them back. He did not reduce his standard for pleasing his disciples. When we live a higher standard of Christian life, people around us will get offended. As Jesus said, the world will hate us because by our life we testify that its deeds are evil. If our worldly friends do not hate us but think that we are one among them then there is something wrong with our Christian life. Our Worldly friends should always have something to complain about our uprightness.

John Wesley lived by that standard. He hated by many because his teaching standards were so high. Once he found that for two weeks, no one opposed him or persecuted him. He prayed 'Lord did I reduce your standard? Why do people not oppose me? Please show me if I have backslidden.' As he was praying a man passed by who hated Wesley. The man threw a stone at him that just missed Wesley's head and hit some object. Wesley thanked the Lord for answering his prayer!

Even in Church like the one we are, it is possible for fellow disciples to get offended at us for no reason. They may think our standard is too high or we are self righteous etc. In all such situations, we should submit to God asking whether there is any element of truth in what the

other fellow disciples think about us, if God says no then we do not need to be burdened by them.

Third circle is in relationship to the rest of the world. Jesus was made to stand before High priest and Pontius Pilate. They accused him with all false testimonies regarding him. But Jesus never spoke a word. He kept entrusting himself to God who judges him righteously.

My own mother cursed me for marrying a christian woman. She said because I married against the family traditions, I will never have children and their Gods are angry at me. But I believed that I am doing God's will here. If God is merciful to give me children, then no curse of people around me can affect me. In the same way God was merciful and we had our daughter in 10 months time! The same Mother who cursed me, wanted earnestly to see her grand daughter. I could have told her that 'Is this not the grand daughter whom you cursed that she will never be born?'. But I kept entrusting myself to God who judges me righteously and kept showing my family the love of Christ.

May the Lord bless us with this example of Jesus and make it a reality in our Christian life.