

Blessed are you when you are insulted

¹¹“Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹²“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

How should we react when we are singled out to be insulted and when people say all kinds of evil against us because we are following Jesus?

Jesus Himself will one day be insulted, persecuted and crucified under false charges, yet He chose to forgive them all.

But this is so difficult for us. Once I spoke about all these eloquently, but now when I am insulted and rejected because of jealousy in ministry it is so hard for me to forgive.

Preaching and practising seem like parallel lines never meeting perhaps in infinity, eternity!

Yet we are called to forgive.

Recently I was very badly hurt because my name was not even acknowledged in a ministry which I'd been part of for almost a decade. I knew I was deliberately left out. If it had been something to do with my profession I would easily brush aside. But this was something so dear to me.

When my name was deliberately missed I left the place very quickly for I was afraid that if I had stayed I'd have really launched a scalding attack on that person. Even after coming home I could not get over this. I was thinking how to deal with this.

Somehow through all these years I had always been taken for granted when it came to ministry. But when I was younger it was so easy for me to shrug it off and say , “My reward is from the Lord,” and sure enough God was always and still is blessing the work of my hands.

But now as I grow older it is so hard for me to forgive. As I took it to the Lord in prayer, I was again reminded my life and my reward is not going to end here.

Our real reward is in eternity. It is really hard to keep on working when we don't see anything concrete here. But if we have the promise of God that we will have a reward in eternity we will surely have.

It is so natural for us to go and vindicate our names and provide a litany of how hard I've worked over the years.

But God keeps our account. If we crusade for our cause here, we would end up with broken relationships, needless accusations etc. But if we would lay it at the feet of Jesus, He will surely do something beautiful out of our reaction to the insults and lies aimed at us.

I have always seen that in my personal life. When I had held my peace when wrongly accused, the Lord always gave me a bigger blessing from some other quarter .

Yet it is so hard to let go of the insults and slander heaped on us. But the Spirit of God is able to heal us and to give us the spirit of forgiveness.

If we do not pass by this way, we cannot become more like Jesus. In every way we have to follow Jesus.

Jesus asks us to rejoice and be glad for our Big Reward will be in eternity.

Be blessed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxpPIa-BskY>

A beautiful song written by Graham Kendrick sung by Robin Mark in this.