







Being hated is not nice, yet maybe healthy?

When all the people heard of Jesus' arrival, they flocked to see him and also to see Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Then the leading priests decided to kill Lazarus, too, for it was because of him that many of the people had deserted them and believed in Jesus. (v9-11)

You will be hated by everyone because of me. (Mt 10:22-23)

You will be hated by everyone because of My name.(Lk 21:16-19)

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first...As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also...If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.' (John 15:18-25)

Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye. (Ps 35:19)

With words of hatred they surround me; they attack me without cause. (Ps 109:3)

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. (Ps 69:4)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Rom 8:18)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more precious than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1Pet 1:6-7)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (Jam 1:2-4)

2/ The necessity of a culture of hospitable fellowship

Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. (v2)

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realising it! (Heb 13:2)

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Pet 4:9)

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matt 25:40)

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Rom 12:13)



3/ Humility towards the Word of God

But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. (v4-6)

Helped himself to what was put into it. (v6)

(Covertly) - Steal from ministry giving (Overtly) - Judas sought to diminish and decry by 'honouring' himself with a 'crowd pleasing' worthy idea...

Why did Judas steal, and not receive grace?

Do we do things we do not want to do?

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (Romans 7:18)

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:25)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation...to live according to...the Spirit. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we...are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (taken from Romans 8:1-17)

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (John 17:15-19)

Do you think the [WORD] Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit He has placed within us should be faithful to Him. And He gives grace generously.

So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you...Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will liftyou up in honour. (James 4)

4/ To thieve from Mary (Jesus)...was to:

steal honour and glory from Jesus
kill the outward moment of devotion (even by false positive)
destroy the inward desire/motivation/heart

4/ To thieve from Mary (Jesus)... "Leave her alone"

But Judas Iscariot...said "That perfume was worth a year's wages.

It should have been sold and the money given to the poor."

...Jesus replied, "Leave her alone." (v4-7)

The thief wants to kill, steal and destroy...

May we not permit it – we declare 'leave us alone'. May we live and fight by the Spirit. May we persevere. May we bring our gift, our sacrifice, our devotion, our hospitality, our 'perfume' for Jesus!

No more should have beens...

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

John 12:24-26

(taken from Romans 8:1-17)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation...to live according to...the Spirit. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we...are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

should have been...For His honour and glory

