

Acts 5:29-32,41

Are we worthy to suffer for Jesus?

“But Peter and the apostles answered and said, “We must obey God rather than man. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are the witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” -Peter

So they went on their way from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Are we worthy to suffer shame for Jesus? So much time is spent being afraid that persecution will come upon us. Some are anxious about end-time persecution, some because of how far our society has fallen and that persecution is inevitable. We don't often stop and wonder if we are even worthy of being persecuted. I'm afraid that many of us don't love the Lord enough to even be persecuted. We stand on the side lines loving this present life and don't want to jeopardize any of our comforts. I'm afraid that this self-love makes us unworthy to suffer for the Lord. It is greatly to our shame that we are counted unworthy. We rarely consider that to suffer is to be honored by God.

It's interesting that Peter phrases it “Worthy to suffer *shame* for His name.” To which we call to mind that Jesus was hung and humiliated before all the world as a criminal and is slandered and still not vindicated to this day. This is the kind of shame that follows those who follow Jesus. Jesus said that we would be hated by all on account of Him. We have an enemy who works night and day to discredit our loving Savior and he will do the same to anyone who would stand with Him. Paul says, “When we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the sum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.” 1 Corinthians 4:13

So let us set our minds on the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father. “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.” -Hebrews 12: 2-3

We have been given a high calling to be with Jesus forever! Will we not rise at this hour and stand with Him? His constant word to us is - **Rise Up! It is late and I'm coming soon! Be on the alert and wake up the sleepers. IT IS TIME!**

Let us pray that we might love Him enough to be worthy to suffer humiliation for Him. Let us not be ashamed of Him so that when He returns in glory He will not be ashamed of us.

God bless you all!

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Written by a fellow servant of Jesus -Seth