

OUR REWARD: WE ARE TREATED LIKE THE PROPHETS - Lk 6:23,26
071220A

INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6: persecution in the battle we fight as Sons of Most High [v35].
v22-23 Jms 1:2-4 *test* = validate by experience - maturation [*perfect & complete*]. When a test requires an exercise of faith & you exercise faith - encouraged!
2. Discern 2 seeds [Gn 3:15]: the blessed & cursed. Inversions - weep [real but temporary pain] & leap for joy [real eternal joy]. Lk 6:22-23

1st: The Exhortation - behold

1. 1st command: *Be glad*. How? By obeying 2nd command.
2. 2nd command: *behold* - pay attention; give value. Why jump for joy in persecution? Depends on what you *behold* w/ eyes of faith.

2nd: The Expectation - your reward is great in heaven

1. Xn is justified by grace. Doctrine of good works - LBC chpt 16. Living faith is rewarded & rebellion is punished in Final Judgment.
2. Jesus contrasts this age & age to come. Christian lives life of the age to come already - a life evidenced by good works.
 - i. Commands emotional obedience [*be glad*] & motivates w/ promised *reward* which we believe & rejoice.
 - ii. Prospect of *reward* is more real than our experience of persecution.
3. *heaven* = not this age, a synonym of kingdom of God
4. *great* - much, many, large => degrees of rewards - v35.
 - i. Jesus wants us to pursue *great reward* - Mk 10:43-44.
 - ii. Degrees of rewards-stewards; profit, faithfulness. 1Cor 3:8, v10-15
5. Lk 6:23 relationship tw/ persecution & reward [Hb 11:24-27]

3rd: The Encouragement of the Prophets - fathers used to treat the prophets

1. OCov Israel rejected the men God sent w/ His Word - Lk 20:9ff
 - i. Jeremiah: Jer 20:2; 26:8; 36:23; 37:15; 43:1-2. Tradition - he was stoned to death in Egypt.

- ii. Ezekiel: Ez 2:6; 20:49; 33:31-32.
 - iii. Jesus' teaching - Mt 23:33-37a
 - iv. Stephen - Act 7:51-54. Sanhedrin then illustrated Stephen's sermon
 - v. Paul re *Jews* [apostate OCov Israel] - 1 Th 2:14-16.
2. Lk 6:22-23;26 discern ultimate realities: persecution or applause.
 3. False prophets are rewarded in this life. Jer 5:30-31.
 4. Are we susceptible to our own historical revisionism? The sober realism of NT. We are tempted to envy the "success" of the false prophets. It is crucial that we obey Jesus' command: *behold! Great reward!*

Applic #1: We Must Discern and Disdain False Prophets

1. A 20:29-30 - [2Pt 2:1]. Wolves in sheep's clothing in pew & words twisted in pulpit to draw disciples to themselves.
2. 2 T 4:3-4 false disciples draw false teachers to themselves.
 - i. Discern *sound doctrine & the truth* vs man-gratifying myths [often constructed w/ bits of Bible - Satan likes to quote Bible]. Discern qualifications of preacher & quality of doctrines taught by preacher.
 - ii. Apostasy: false teachers produce Xns unable to distinguish *sound* words of Script & *pervverted* [twisted] words of Script. Pastors & people must know & love the truth - 2Th 2:10-11.
 - iii. *When Son of Man comes, will He find THE faith on earth?* [Lk 18:8]
 - a. *the faith* = that wh/ is believed, not "believing". When Jesus returns, people will be believing... what?
 - b. Thankful for LBC - Hb 13:7. We have a heritage of truth.

Applic #2: We Must Be Like The True Prophets

1. Not office of *prophet*, but heirs of true prophets.
2. *Great reward in heaven* if you stay steadfast - 2 T 1:12-14 Paul in prison then beheaded. Is truth *that* important? A 20:26-27
3. Let us be a voice of prophetic truth. Do not let men's misjudgment obscure Jesus' promised rewards - 1 C 4:5