

THE PECULIAR JOY OF PERSECUTION - Lk 6:23

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INTRODUCTION

1. Lk 6:22 social opposition. Points of reference
 - i. Jesus contrasts this present age & the age to come.
 - a. Kingdom inversion
 - b. Allusions to material, social, & emotional issues understood in terms of Jesus' kingdom.
 - ii. Opposed *for sake of the Son of Man* - His proxies [v35].
Jn 15:15:20
 - a. Avoid over-realized eschatology wh/ neglects suffering.
 - b. Avoid under-realized eschatology wh/ denies kingdom victories.
 - iii. Jesus is giving us battle strategy for kingdom victory - v27-28; v35.
 - a. We experience victory to the extent that we become like Jesus.
2. Are we facing opposition? How shld we respond? [1 Pt 3:7-8] Bless enemies for validating our kingdom citizenship! Joy?

1st: The Extraordinary Joy of The Persecuted

1. *in that day* - when we are opposed. 1st imperative: *be glad & leap for joy*
 - i. Rm 6:11 - 1st imperative directed to our thinking; now emotions
 - ii. *be glad* - rejoice, be delighted, be happy: "enjoy state of well-being"
 - a. Heb Shalom [peace], Grk greeting - "Hello" "good morning".
 - b. *In that day*, say "good morning!"
 - iii. *leap for joy* - to spring forth like a gust of wind - jumping exuberantly.
 - a. JnB in Eliz's womb: *leaped in her womb* [Lk 1:41]
 - b. HS-engendered joy in rln to fulfillment of promise.
2. We're challenged - emotional obedience? We can use emotions as excuse for disobedience! Cf. Ezek 24:15-18 emotional alignment w/ prophesy
3. How can we not weep when hated & be commanded to be glad?
 - i. Kingdom joy runs deeper than present age weeping - 1Pt 1:6-9.
 - a. *distress* [grief] an occasion to *prove faith* [validate in experience]; *tested* [same Grk] *by fire*.

- b. Joy in relation to Jesus' return: *inexpressible & full of glory*.
 - 1) *glory* in Heb = heavy, weighty; abiding, true
 - 2) 2C 4:17-18 - momentary // eternal; light // weight; seen // not seen; temporal // eternal - *glory far beyond all comparison*.
- ii. The laughter or joy is due to kingdom victories: our transformed character; growth in sanctification is kingdom victory!

2nd: Examples of Extraordinary Joy

1. Jesus' greatest joy: Lk 10:17-24 [previously examined - kingdom laughter]
2. Apostle's examples: 1] Act 5:40,41; 2] Act 16:25
 - i. 2 C 6:3-10 Kingdom inversions due to strategy of cross.
 - ii. World condemns Xn, but Xn is justified in God's courtroom; world hates Xn, but Xn is loved by the Father in Jesus; world wld kill Xn, but Xn is resurrected in Christ & destined for eternal life.

Applic #1: Christ Must Teach Us This Extraordinary Joy

1. I know by experience that I am not qualified to teach this joy.
2. Jesus alone can teach us *His* joy - Jn 15:11 Like Jesus' peace [14:27].
 - i. A joy peculiar to Jesus - *My joy*. Like His peace (14:27).
 - ii. Jude 1:24-25 only Jesus is able to cause us to stand in great joy.
3. How? By HS - *peace & joy in the HS* [Rm 14:17]; *Fruit of HS is love, joy...* [Gal 5: 22-23].

Applic #2: We Must Ask Jesus to Teach Us This Extraordinary Joy

1. Act at foundational level - Lk 6:46-49 Jesus' words have to permeate into heart-level wh/ then shapes & informs thinking, feeling, choosing, doing.
2. *Give me your heart* [Pv 23:26]; pray [Ps 119:34], plead promise [Jer 24:7] *I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord & they will be My ppl & I will be their God, for they will return to Me w/ their whole heart*.
3. Heart work is hard but necessary work. If Jesus' words are not the substance of our hearts, whose words are? Ask Jesus to give you HIS joy.