

SCRIPT - Blessed are those who are Persecuted for what is Right

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Narrator

Lesson eight , Blessed are those who are Persecuted for what is right

[crowd murmuring]

[Baliff – “all rise”]

[gavel]

The court is now in session.

Prosecutor - Your honor, the state charges Mr.Saa-taan with kidnapping and torture.

We will show evidence that the defendant has slowly tortured his victims over a period of several years.

Judge – Do you have any evidence to present to this court?

Prosecutor - Exhibit A is this Bible, your honor. We will show, during the course of this trial, that the defendant conspired to turn the owner of this Bible into a slave.

Defense Attorney – I object, your honor! There is no proof that the defendant did any such thing!

[crowd]

[gavel]

Prosecutor – Your honor, if the court will allow me to open the Bible. Anyone can see that the owner of this Bible took lots of notes. Some of them even have dates. So, at one time this person was very interested in hearing from God.

Now, look at how the pages have been faded by the sun. The cover is thick with dust. We found it under a stack of magazines in the back of a closet. It was only after Mr. Saa-taan began to whisper...

[interrupting]

Judge – please, let’s move on... do you have any witnesses to call to the stand?

Prosecutor – Yes, we call Mr. Saa-taan to the stand.

Mr. Saa-taan, is it not true that you have taken people as prisoners and attacked their minds with thoughts of torture?

Devil – I disagree with the way you say that. I set people free! They are free to be themselves –not some copy of whatever God wants them to be! What you call torture, I call gentle reminders.

Prosecutor – oh really? Is it a gentle reminder to constantly throw their sins in their faces? Sins which have been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ?

Devil – well, not all their sins have been covered... some of these people didn't ask God specifically enough or in the correct way.

Prosecutor – that's a lie! The Bible says all we need to do is to confess and forsake our sins and they will be washed away.

Do you mind telling us how you prepare these attacks?

Devil – I'd be happy to, since I don't actually care about what you or anybody else thinks of me!

Here's how it goes.

First, we find a way to get the person to isolate themselves from other Christians. This is easy since Christians do so many stupid things –who would want to be around imperfect people?

Prosecutor – who's WE?

Devil – Oh, never mind, just some helpers of mine. We kind of gang up on people.

In fact, one of our best attacks is to use fear to stop them from whatever they are doing.

[laughing]

You ought to see them! All you have to do is send a feeling of fear on them and watch how they freeze up. Most of the time they don't even know WHY They are afraid!

[laughing]

Sorry, that one is just too good!

So, as I was saying, next, we find something embarrassing that has been done and then we threaten to EXPOSE this person if they don't keep quiet and stay away from church.

We move on to a more permanent solution by showing them that everything which happens is because of people. As long as they are fighting with humans they don't think about us.

The final solution is to make them hate themselves. Once they see what a piece of scum they really are we can start reminding them that there is something called the unpardonable sin.

Prosecutor – but the Bible says the only unpardonable sin is rejecting Jesus.

Devil – so you say –but THEY don't know that!

Don't you get it? As long as they think God is mad at them they will soon give up and say, "Why even try anymore? God is done with me so I might as well quit trying."

Perfect plan –don't you think?

Narrator

Let's leave the courtroom and ask ourselves what this means.

When we first hear Jesus say, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for what is right," we tend to think that this is only about human beings persecuting us.

The Bible says that our REAL fight is not with people but against evil spirits.

Many people don't believe this. They say that it is not possible for the devil to attack our minds.

What about Jesus rebuking Peter and telling him that the devil was putting thoughts in his mind?

Why would 2 Corinthians 1:50 says that we need to capture every thought if there are no thoughts to be captured?

Why would 1 Timothy 4:1 warn us about evil spirits?

Why does Ephesians 4:27 warn us not to give up any ground to the devil?

The book of Daniel tells us that in the last days the devil will "Wear out the saints..." this means that he is going to attack us every day until we either give in or stand against him.

So, HOW can we stand against him? Well, what did Jesus do when he was attacked by the devil? He quoted the Bible.

How can you quote the Bible –if you don't even read it?

Talk to God about it. Tell him that by faith you believe that you need the Bible in your life.

Tell him that you are going to read it even if you don't feel like it.

Tell Him that you are trying to live by faith by doing this –only because he SAID to do it!

You will soon find that you will pick up the Bible every day with a piece of paper and a pencil just wondering what He is going to show you today.

There is NO question that you are going to be attacked for doing what is right –the question is HOW are you going to handle these attacks?

Revelation 12:11 says that God's people will overcome the devil using their words to tell how their sins are covered by the blood of Christ AND that they will not love their own lives –even to the point of death.

Let's wait before the throne of God every day with a Bible in our hands –just waiting to hear what He will say.

Maybe the answers you are looking for are just a couple of verses away?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for what is right –for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.