

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED
BERBAHAGIALAH ORANG YANG DIANIYAYA
(Matthew 5:10-12)

Have you ever thought what you would do if you were called upon to die for Christ?

Apakah anda pernah memikirkan apa yang akan anda lakukan kalau anda diminta untuk mengorbankan hidupmu untuk Kristus Yesus.

What would you do if you were given the choice: either renounce Christ now and live or say that you believe in Christ and die, what would you do.

Coba bayangkan kalau anda disuruh pilih: Melepaskan Kekristenan dan hidup atau mengaku kepercayaanmu didalam Kristus dan mati. Apa pilihanmu?

And you know that there are Christians today that live under those circumstances, in fact many in Ambon were given that choice.

Dan anda saya rasa tahu juga tentang orang-orang Kristen yang pernah mengalami keadaan yang sama, malah banyak orang di Ambon juga diberi pilihan yang sama.

Have you ever felt that God asked you something that requires a lot of sacrifice?

Apakah anda pernah merasakan bahwa Tuhan minta sesuatu dari anda yang memerlukan pengorbanan yang sangat besar?

Has it really cost you something, really, something of incredible value?

Apakah yang Tuhan minta itu didalam kehidupanmu memang sangat berharga?

Or have you lived your Christian life pretty easy, where everything has not been too difficult.

Atau anda hidup sebagai orang Kristen itu memang gampang, santai saja dan tidak ada kesusahan sama sekali.

There are times when God calls you out of your comfort zone to really do something for Him.

Memang ada kalanya dimana Tuhan akan memanggil anda dari keadaan yang santai untuk khususnya melayani Dia.

Truthfully, the call to be a missionary, which means to be able to tell someone of the news of Christ, is not only for a few people but for everyone.

Sebenarnya panggilan untuk menjadi pengabar injil, jaitu membeeri tahukan orang lain tentang Kristus, bukan saja untuk pendeta-pendeta tetapi untuk semua orang .

And don't be surprised if God calls you to go back to Indonesia and to stand up and live like a Christian in an all-Moslem country.

Dan jangan heran atau terkejut kalau Tuhan memanggil anda untuk kembali ke Indonesia untuk melakukan itu, jaitu mengabarkan injil dinegara Muslim Indonesia ..

In fact that is what Sofiarini and Fredy are doing in Ambon right now! They are sacrificing a lot to be there. Can we pray for them right now?

Itukan yang dikerjakan oleh Sofiarini dan Fredy di Ambon sekarang ini juga! Mereka benar-benar mengorbankan banyak untuk melayani disana. Mari kita berdoa untuk mereka sekarang.

Oh Lord, we pray for Fredy and Sofiarini who have sacrificed so much in their life to bring the good news to Ambon. Lord, we know that Ambon is still one of the most difficult places in the world today and pray that You supernaturally bless them as You are teaching us today that the persecuted are blessed. Thank you Lord, we pray this in your blessed name, Amen.

Do you know that all of us are called to be a missionary, and sometimes we are called to go where there is danger, difficulties and persecution.

Tahukah anda bahwa Tuhan memanggil semua orang Kristen, jah semua yang ada disini untuk mengabarkan injil dan ada kalanya kita dipanggil untuk pergi ketempat yang berbahaya, dimana ada kesusahan dan penganiayaan.

I know a lot of you want to stay in America because you can work here and have plenty to eat and buy that nice car and you can make enough money to send to your families back home so that they can live there.

Saya tahu kita semua ingin berdiam diAmerika karena memang ada pekerjaan dan makanan banyak dan kita bisa membeli mobil yang bagus dan kirim uang kepada keluargamu diIndo supaya mereka bisa menahan dan hidup disana, benar?

But our life is not ours, if you are a Christian you have been bought by the blood of Christ, and your life is not yours anymore.

Tetapi kenyataannya adalah bahwa kehidupan ini bukan milikmu, kalau anda seorang Kristen, anda sudah dibeli dengan darah Tuhan Yesus dan kehidupanmu ini sekarang adalah milik Tuhan.

Christ described the eight life attitudes that all blood-bought Christians should have in His first public sermon.

Dan Tuhan Yesus didalam Khotbah umum yang pertama itu menjelaskan kedelapan sikap rohani yang semuanya kita harus melakukan karena kita semua milik Tuhan Yesus.

He described these spiritual attitudes as being Blessed, where you are being blessed by God Himself.

Dia menerangkan bahwa kita akan bahagia kalau kita mengikuti sikap-sikap rohani itu karena kita akan diberkati sama Tuhan sendiri.

There is no greater state that you can ask for than to be under God's blessings. So let us look again at those eight beatitudes.

Dan memang kalau kita diberkati Tuhan itu keadaan yang paling baik. Jadi mari kita menjelidiki lagi sikap-sikap rohani yang delapan itu.

Blessed are the poor in Spirit, the broken before God, because they will go to Heaven
Berbahagialah orang yang miskin dihadapan Allah, karena mereka mengerti kekurangan mereka dan karena itu akan pergi kesurga.

Blessed are those who mourn and repent of their sins, because God will comfort them
Berbahagialah orang yang berdukacita dan bertobat dari dosa-dosanya, karena mereka akan dihibur Tuhan.

Blessed are the meek, the humble, the one who submits their life to Jesus for they will inherit the new earth.
Berbahagialah orang yang lemah lembut yang menyerahkan hidupnya sepenuhnya kepada Yesus, karena mereka akan diwariskan dunia baru di surga.

Blessed are those who desire righteousness because Jesus will be in the center of their lives.
Berbahagialah orang yang lapar dan haus akan kebenaran, karena Yesus akan berada ditengah kehidupan mereka.

Blessed are those who show mercy and forgiveness to others for they will be shown mercy by God.
Berbahagialah orang yang murah hati kepada orang-orang lain karena mereka akan beroleh kemurahan juga dari Tuhan.

Blessed are those who have let Christ purify their hearts for they will see God in Heaven
Berbahagialah orang yang disucikan hatinya sama Tuhan Yesus, karena mereka akan melihat Tuhan disurga.

And last week Jesus says blessed are those who are peacemakers for they are part of God's family.
Dan minggu yang lalu, Yesus mengatakan berbahagialah orang yang membawa damai, karena mereka sudah diterima didalam keluarga Tuhan.

And today is beatitude number eight, and for many this is the most frightening and the most contrary to human thinking.
Dan hari ini kita akan membahas sikap rohani yang kedelapan, dan untuk kebanyakan orang ini merupakan sesuatu yang paling menakutkan dan yang bertentangan dengan pikiran manusia.

The world does not associate being blessed with being persecuted. Yet this describes the essence of being a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ.

Dunia ini tidak akan mengerti bagaimana kita mendapat kebahagiaan dari penganiayaan. Tetapi ini merupakan pengertian yang dasar untuk murid-murid Tuhan Yesus yang sungguh-sungguh.

God now tells us that if we have faithfully lived according to the first seven spiritual attitudes, we will at some point in time experience the eight.

Tuhan sekarang memberitahukan kepada kita semua bahwa kalau kita sudah hidup dengan setia menurut sikap-sikap rohani yang tujuh sebelum ini, pasti pada suatu saat kita akan mengalami apa yang akan belajar mengenai sikap rohani kedelapan ini.

Look with me in Matt.5:10-12. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for they so persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Mari kita lihat bersama di Matt 5:10-12 "Berbahagialah orang yang dianiyaya oleh sebab kebenaran, karena merekalah yang empunya Kerajaan Sorga. Berbahagialah kamu, jika karena Aku kamu dicela dan dianiyaya dan kepadamu difitnahkan segala yang jahat. Bersukacitalah dan bergembiralah, karena upahmu besar disorga, sebab demikian juga telah dianiyaya nabi-nabi yang sebelum kamu."

Faithful Christians are blessed, but you pay a price for it. 2 Tim. 3:12 says, "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

Orang Kristen yang setia akan bahagia, tetapi ada harganya. 2Tim.3:12 mengatakan, "Memang setiap orang yang mau hidup beribadah didalam Kristus Yesus akan menderita aniyaya."

When you live for Christ you live opposed to Satan in this world and his system. And living for Christ today produces the same reaction today that was given Christ in His day when He was crucified.

Kalau anda hidup untuk Kristus, kehidupan anda bertentangan dengan cara-cara dunia ini yang dipengaruhi Iblis. Dan kehidupanmu untuk Kristus sekarang akan menyebabkan reaksi yang sama dizaman ini dibanding dengan reaksi yang diberikan kepada Tuhan Yesus pada waktu Dia ditantang dan disalibkan.

In fact the bible teaches that when we face persecution because of our faith, we should not be surprised or resentful. Look at 1 Peter 4:12,13.

Malah kitab Suci mengajarkan kepada kami bahwa kalau masalah karena iman kami, janganlah kami heran atau merasa jengkel. Coba lihatlah ke 1 Petrus 4:12,13.

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ' sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you also may be glad with exceeding joy."

Saudara-saudara yang kekasih, janganlah kamu heran akan nyala api siksaan yang datang kepadamu sebagai ujian, seolah-olah ada sesuatu yang luar biasa terjadi atas kamu; sebaliknya bersuka citalah, sesuai dengan bagian yang kamu dapat dalam penderitaan Kristus, supaya kamu juga boleh bergembira dan bersukacita pada waktu Ia menyatakan kemuliaannya.”

Every faithful Christian will at times have some resistance and ridicule, while others, for God's own purposes will endure extreme suffering.

Setiap orang Keristen yang setia pada suatu saat akan mengalami pembencian dan ejekan, dan ada juga orang-orang tertentu yang untuk maksud Tuhan tersendiri akan mengalami penganiayaan yang ekstrim.

Our responsibility is not to seek out persecution but be willing to endure whatever trouble our faithfulness to Christ might bring.

Kewajiban kita bukan untuk mencari penganiayaan tetapi kita harus bersedia untuk memikul penderitaan apapun yang disebabkan kesetiaan kita kepada Tuhan Yesus.

So let me ask you a question, what do you think is most beneficial for your Christian life; to live in America where there is freedom and plenty of everything, or to be in Indonesia where life is full of derision and persecution?

Jadi sekarang saya ingin tanya, apakah menurut anda yang paling untuk kerohanianmu, untuk kekristenanmu, hidup di Amerika dimana ada kebebasan dan segala sesuatu berkelimpahan, atau kamu berada di Indonesia dimana kehidupanmu penuh dengan ejekan dan penaniayaan.

What do you think is more beneficial for the church? If you look back in history you see that the church and the Christians grew in the worst of circumstances.

Coba pikirkan apa yang lebih baik untuk gereja-gereja? Kalau kita melihat sejarah gereja, kita lihat bahwa gereja-gereja dan orang-orang Kristen malah bertumbuh pada waktu keadaannya paling buruk.

History proves that the church and the Christian do not handle prosperity very well.

Kalau kita melihat sejarah gereja itu membuktikan bahwa gereja dan orang-orang Kristen sebenarnya tidak bisa bertumbuh pada waktu mereka kaya.

In the last book of the bible, The Revelation, Jesus addresses seven letters to seven churches.

Didalam buku terakhir kitab Suci, yaitu Wahyu, Tuhan Yesus menulis tujuh surat ketujuh gereja.

The highest letter of praise goes to the most persecuted church, the church of Smyrna, and the letter with the most condemnation goes to the richest church, the church of Laodecia.

Surat yang memuji gereja yang paling baik diberi kepada gereja yang paling dianiaya jaitu gereja di Sirna dan surat yang paling penuh dengan penghukuman ditulis kepada gereja terkaya jaitu gereja Laodikia.

Let us read Rev. 2:10 about the persecuted church. “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

“Janganlah takut terhadap apa yang harus engkau derita! Sesungguhnya Iblis akan melemparkan beberapa orng dari antaramu kedalam penjara supaya kamu dicobai dan kamu akan beroleh kesusahan selama sepuluh hari. Hendaklah engkau setia sampai mati, dan Aku akan mengaruniakan kepadamu mahkota kehidupan.”

You see that Jesus knows what is going to happen, and He praises all that are going to suffer for Him and His Kingdom.

Tahukah anda bahwa Tuhan Yesus tahu apa yang anda akan mengalami dan Dia memuji orang-orang yang sedia untuk mengalami penderitaan untuk Dia dan kerajaannya.

And then let us also look what Jesus says to the church of Laodecia in Rev. 3:15-17. “I know you works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

“Aku tahu segala pekerjaanmu: engkau tidak dingin dan tidak panas. Alangkah baiknya jika engkau dingin atau panas!

So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

Jadi karena engkau suam-suam kuku, dan tidak dingin atau panas, Aku akan memuntahkan engkau dari mulutku. Karena engkau berkata : Aku kaya dan aku telah memperkayakan diriku dan aku tidak kekurangan apa-apa , dan karena engkau tidak tahu , bahwa engkau melarat , dan malang, miskin, buta dan telanjang.

Here is a church and it’s people who pay more attention to their wealth than to God. They have freedom from persecution and together with their wealth it has caused them to be lukewarm toward God.

Disini kita bisa melihat satu gereja dimana orang-orangnya lebih mementingkan kekayaannya daripada Tuhan. Mereka bebas tanpa penganiayaan dan penderitaan dan karena mereka kaya, dan sikap kerohanian mereka suam-suam kuku terhadap Tuhan.

And this is what I think is the truth about our church where there are many of people that have become lukewarm.

Dan saya merasa ini juga benar untuk gereja kita dimana banyak diantara kita sendiri yang tidak dipenuhi api kerohanian tetapi santai saja dan suam-suam kuku.

How many of us are really on fire for God? And if you are not on fire, you must be lukewarm or you may be cold.

But you are definitely cold if you only think about God on Sundays.

I know that the church bombings in Indonesia in the year 2000 were dangerous and frightening, but I tell you that God says that prosperity is even more dangerous.

Tertullian, a famous scholar in the early days said in the early church that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

Tertullian, seorang terkenal diabad pertama menulis bahwa gereja-gereja pertama dibangun melalui darah orang-orang martir.

In Africa, a young boy ten years old is made to gather wood by Muslim government soldiers. They then begin to pressure him to denounce being a Christian and become a Muslim. He refuses and they threw him on to the burning wood he gathered and leave him to die. By God's grace he survived and he told his story to the news and they saw the scars(*bekas luka*) where he was burned. He said they told him if he just told them that he was going to be a Muslim he would be released. The boy, James Zeda, refused saying that was not possible, because he was a Christian.

2. In Pakistan, Khalid Masih, and eight other Christians are awaiting their trials for blasphemy(*memfitnah, menhujat*) by their Muslim government. Twice groups of radical Muslims attacked the local Baptist church and the home of Pastor Yousef Masih. Everything they had of value was stolen. Because they are Christians they also cannot get work.

And the same is true in Indonesia. I have heard and some of you may know firsthand some of the atrocities that the Muslims did towards Christians, forcing many to deny Christ.

"One of the most famous of all the martyrs was Polycarp, the aged bishop of Smyrna who was killed in 156 A.D(*sesudah lahirnya nabi Isa*). The mob dragged him to the tribunal of the Roman magistrate. he was given the inevitable choice - sacrifice to the godhead of Caesar or die.

Polycarp responded, 'Eighty six years have I served Christ, and He has done me no wrong, how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?' so they brought him to the stake, and he prayed his last prayer: 'O Lord God almighty, the father of thy well-beloved and everlasting Son, by whom we have received the knowledge of You...I thank You that You have graciously thought me worthy of this day and of this hour.'" and with those words Polycarp was burned at the stake."

What would you do if you were given that choice? Would you as brave as Polycarp?

Do you think that God does not know this? What God is saying right here is for all of you and me; He says that when you are threatened, when you are persecuted because of Christ, you should rejoice because God blesses you and your reward is great in heaven.

Living for Christ means having no fear or shame, and with courage live with this attitude: “I will be in this world what Christ wants me to be. I will say what Christ wants me to say, whatever the costs.”

Living for Christ might mean that friends or family might say things that hurt deeply. Maybe they are insults to your face but the real evil words are primarily said behind your backs.

We have to understand that when we are hated, spat upon or persecuted, the real hate is not against us but against Christ.

This is what Jesus explained to us in John 15:18-21, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

“Jikalau dunia membenci kamu , ingatlah bahwa ia telah lebih dahulu membenci Aku dari pada kamu

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of this world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Sekiranya kamu dari dunia, tentulah dunia mengasihi kamu sebagai miliknya Tetapi karena kamu bukan dari dunia, melainkan Aku telah memilih kamu dari dunia, sebab itulah dunia membenci kamu.”

“Remember the word that I said to you; a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecute Me, they will also persecute you.

Ingatlah apa yang kukatakan kepadamu: seorang hamba tidak lebih tinggi dari pada tuannya. Jikalau mereka telah mengainiaya Aku, mereka juga akan mengainiaya kamu;

If they kept My word, they will keep your also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.”

jikalau mereka telah menuruti firmanku , mereka juga akan menuruti perkataanmu. Tetapi semua itu akan mereka lakukan terhadap kamu karena namaKu, sebab mereka tidak mengenal Dia yang telah mengutus Aku ”

But compared to what is gained, even the martyr’s price is small. Look at Mark 10:29,30.

“So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the

gospel, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time - houses and brothers and sisters and lands with persecutions - and in the age to come, eternal life.”

“Jawab Yesus: Aku berkata kepadamu, sesungguhnya setiap orang yang karena Aku dan karena Injil meninggalkan rumahnya, saudaranya laki-laki atau saudarannya perempuan, ibunya atau bapanya, anak-anaknya atau ladangnya, orang itu sekarang pada masa ini juga akan menerima kembali seratus kali lipat; rumah, saudara laki-laki, saudara perempuan, ibu, anak dan lading, sekalipun disertai berbagai penganiayaan, dan pada zaman yang akan datang ia akan menerima hidup yang kekal.

We are blessed with the assurance that no service or sacrifice for God will be in vain.

Martyrs are not blessed with the things of this life, but they are doubly blessed with comfort strength and joy of God Himself.

How much do you love the Lord? Are you willing to stand up for Him, if He calls you to do that? Really?

I hope that for all of us, we will stand up and yes Jesus whatever you want us to do we will do.

There is so much to say about this that I will continue next Sunday. Let us pray.

