

SERIES TITLE: OVERCOMING – From Pressure to Promise

LESSON 1: PRAISE TO PERSECUTION – THE PATHWAY TO VICTORY

Textual Focus: Matthew 21:8–11; Matthew 27:20–23 (KJV)

Beware of the Crowd

- ❖ The crowd responds with celebration, but they are missing it
- ❖ Within days, under influence and unmet expectations, that same crowd shifts to rejection.

The praises of men doesn't always align with your purpose

- ❖ The crowd praised Jesus based on their expectation of deliverance, not divine assignment
- ❖ They wanted a conquering king, but Jesus came first as a suffering Savior
- ❖ Misalignment between expectation and purpose often leads to disappointment

Let's look at the Word

- ❖ John 6:15 – They sought to make Him king by force
- ❖ Isaiah 55:8–9 – God's ways are higher than man's expectations
- ❖ Luke 19:41–42 – Jesus weeps because they did not understand what made for their peace

The same voices can shift under pressure

- ❖ The crowd's loyalty was shallow and easily influenced
- ❖ External voices (religious leaders) manipulated public opinion – Mat. 27:20
- ❖ Crowd mentality often replaces conviction with convenience
 - Exodus 32:1 – Israel quickly turned to idolatry when pressured
 - Galatians 1:10 – Paul warns against seeking to please men
- ❖ Remember how Aaron fell under pressure from the people, he built the golden calf (Exodus 32)

Jesus did not adjust His assignment to match the crowd

- ❖ Jesus never altered His mission to maintain approval – Luke 9:51; John 12:27; Phil 2:8
- ❖ He stayed focused on the cross despite misunderstanding and rejection
- ❖ Purpose comes from God, not people
- ❖ Daniel – Refused to stop praying despite the decree (Daniel 6). He chose obedience over popularity and faced persecution without compromise.

Persecution was not a setback—it was part of the strategy

- ❖ The cross was intentional
- ❖ God used opposition to fulfill prophecy and accomplish redemption
- ❖ What appears as loss can be divine positioning

Let's look at the Word

- ❖ Isaiah 53:5 – He was wounded for our transgressions
- ❖ Acts 2:23 – Delivered by the determinate counsel of God
- ❖ Genesis 50:20 – What was meant for evil, God used for good

Victory is on the other side of endurance

- ❖ Jesus endured suffering with the end in view
- ❖ The cross was painful, but resurrection was powerful
- ❖ Endurance is the bridge between promise and fulfillment

Let's look at the Word

- ❖ Hebrews 12:2 – Endured the cross for the joy set before Him
- ❖ James 1:12 – Blessed is the man that endureth temptation
- ❖ Romans 8:18 – Present sufferings are not worthy to be compared