

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.

LESSON 2:

OVERCOMING DISCOURAGEMENT – STRENGTH WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE QUITTING

Textual Focus: 1 Kings 19:1–8; Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

What is Discouragement

- ❖ Discouragement = “dis” (to remove, take away) + “courage” (inner strength to stand, act, and endure) – Jos. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:7
- ❖ Courage is necessary to obey God in face of opposition, pressure, and uncertainty – Deu. 31:6; 1 Cor. 16:13
- ❖ The enemy attacks courage because if he can remove your courage, he can stop your movement, obedience, and progress – Neh. 6:9; Joh. 16:33

Lesson Points

1. The Valleys are Real: Great victories can be followed by deep valleys

- ❖ Don't misinterpret a low moment as a failed calling – 1 Kin. 19:4; Gal. 6:9
- ❖ Elijah moved from triumph to despair quickly – 1 Kin. 18:38; 1 Kin. 19:4
- ❖ Emotional crashes often follow spiritual highs – Luk. 4:13
- ❖ Success does not eliminate vulnerability – 1 Cor. 10:12
- ❖ Another example: David – Anointed king but still endured hardship – 1 Sam. 16:13; 1 Sam. 19:10

2. Resist the trap of isolation

- ❖ Isolation is often the enemy's strategy to magnify discouragement – 1 Kin. 19:3–4; Heb. 10:25
- ❖ Isolation vs. Separation:
 - Isolation disconnects you from Godly support and accountability – 1 Kin. 19:3–4
 - Separation is intentional withdrawal for strengthening and alignment with God – Mar. 1:35; Luk. 5:16
- ❖ Elijah isolated himself in fear, while Jesus separated Himself in purpose
- ❖ Strength is sustained through connection – Ecc. 4:9–10
- ❖ Another example: Peter – Followed afar off and fell under pressure – Luk. 22:54–62

3. Your perception may be off

- ❖ Discouragement will lie to you about your reality – 1 Kin. 19:10; 1 Kin. 19:18
- ❖ Elijah believed he was alone – 1 Kin. 19:10
- ❖ God revealed a different truth – 1 Kin. 19:18
- ❖ Fear exaggerates problems and minimizes God – Num. 13:31–33
- ❖ Another example: Israelite spies – Saw themselves as grasshoppers – Num. 13:33; Num. 14:1

LESSON 3:

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION – WINNING THE BATTLE BEFORE IT STARTS

Textual Focus: Matthew 4:1–11; James 1:13–15 (KJV)

What is Temptation

- ❖ Temptation is enemy's attempt to pull you away from God's will through desire – Jam. 1:14; 1 Joh. 2:16
- ❖ It is not sin to be tempted, but yielding leads to sin – Heb. 4:15; Jam. 1:15
- ❖ Temptation follows a pattern: desire – deception – decision – consequence – Jam. 1:14–15; Gen. 3:6

Shifting Our Desires

- ❖ Temptation is fueled by unchecked desires, not just external pressure – Jam. 1:14; Rom. 7:18
- ❖ Victory over temptation begins when our desires are aligned with God – Psa. 37:4; Gal. 5:16
- ❖ What you feed grows. You've got to starve the flesh and strengthen the spirit – Rom. 13:14; Gal. 6:8
- ❖ God doesn't just change behavior. He transforms desires – Eze. 36:26; Phil. 2:13
- ❖ When your desires change, your decisions will follow
- ❖ Another example: Joseph refused temptation because his desire was to honor God – Gen. 39:9

Lesson Points

1. Temptation often follows spiritual progress

- ❖ Jesus was tempted right after being affirmed by God – Mat. 3:17; Mat. 4:1
- ❖ Spiritual highs don't eliminate spiritual attacks – 1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Pet. 5:8
- ❖ The enemy looks for moments of vulnerability (fatigue, pressure, hunger) – Mat. 4:2; Luk. 4:2
- ❖ You must stay watchful even after victory – Mat. 26:41; Eph. 6:11
- ❖ Another example: Elijah faced discouragement after victory – 1 Kin. 18:38; 1 Kin. 19:4

2. The enemy attacks your identity

- ❖ Satan challenged Jesus: "If thou be the Son of God..." – Mat. 4:3; Mat. 4:6
- ❖ Temptation often begins with questioning who you are – Gen. 3:1; Luk. 3:22
- ❖ When identity is unclear, decisions become compromised – Pro. 4:23; Rom. 12:2
- ❖ When you know who you are, you don't have to prove it – 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Joh. 3:1
- ❖ Another example: Eve was deceived when truth was questioned – Gen. 3:1–6

3. The Word of God is your weapon

- ❖ Jesus responded to every temptation with Scripture – Mat. 4:4; Mat. 4:7
- ❖ The Word exposes deception and establishes truth – Psa. 119:11; Joh. 17:17
- ❖ You can't win spiritual battles without spiritual weapons – Eph. 6:17; 2 Cor. 10:4
- ❖ What you store in you determines how you respond under pressure – Col. 3:16; Hos. 4:6
- ❖ Another example: Jesus defeated temptation through the Word – Mat. 4:1–11

LESSON 4:

OVERCOMING FEAR – MOVING FORWARD WHEN YOU FEEL PARALYZED

Textual Focus: 2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)

What is Fear

- ❖ Fear is an emotional and spiritual response to perceived danger, uncertainty, or threat – Psa. 56:3; Pro. 29:25
- ❖ Not all fear is wrong, but unhealthy fear opposes faith and obedience – Pro. 1:7; Mat. 10:28
 - Reverent fear of God is holy, healthy, and produces obedience
 - It's rooted in honor, awe, and respect for who God is – Pro. 1:7; Ecc. 12:13
 - It leads to wisdom, alignment, and righteous living – Psa. 111:10; Pro. 8:13
 - It draws you closer to God, not away from Him – Heb. 12:28; Psa. 34:11
 - Faithless fear is harmful and opposes trust in God
 - It's rooted in doubt, uncertainty, and focusing on circumstances – Mat. 14:30; Num. 13:31–33
 - It leads to hesitation, disobedience, and retreat – Exo. 14:10–12; Mar. 4:40
 - It pushes you away from God's will and into self-preservation – Gen. 3:10; Joh. 20:19
 - The fear of God stabilizes you, while fear of circumstances destabilizes you – Isa. 8:12–13; Psa. 27:1
- ❖ God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind – 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 8:15

Understanding the Source of Fear

- ❖ Fear often comes from what we see rather than what God said – Num. 13:31–33; 2 Cor. 5:7
- ❖ The enemy uses fear to stop movement, obedience, and purpose – Exo. 14:10–12; Neh. 6:9
- ❖ Fear magnifies problems and minimizes God – Num. 14:1–3; Psa. 27:1
- ❖ What you focus on will shape how you respond – Heb. 12:2; Col. 3:2
- ❖ Another example: Israelites – Feared giants and refused to move forward – Num. 13:31–33

Lesson Points

1. Fear will try to paralyze your progress

- ❖ Fear keeps you stuck when God is calling you forward – Exo. 14:13–15; Jos. 1:9
- ❖ The children of Israel stood still in panic instead of moving in faith – Exo. 14:10–12
- ❖ God's command was to move, not remain stuck – Exo. 14:15; Deu. 1:6
- ❖ Delayed obedience can lead to missed opportunities – Jas. 4:17; Luk. 9:62
- ❖ Another example: Moses – Initially resisted God's call due to fear – Exo. 3:11; Exo. 4:10

2. Fear distorts perception

- ❖ Fear will cause you to see yourself smaller than you are – Num. 13:33; Rom. 12:3
- ❖ The spies saw themselves as grasshoppers – Num. 13:33
- ❖ Fear exaggerates obstacles and minimizes God’s power – Num. 14:1–3; Jer. 32:17
- ❖ Truth must correct what fear tries to convince you of – Joh. 8:32; Psa. 119:160
- ❖ Another example: Gideon – Saw himself as least, but God called him mighty – Judg. 6:15; Judg. 6:12

3. Faith must override fear

- ❖ Faith is not the absence of fear, but the decision to trust God in spite of it – Heb. 11:1; 2 Cor. 5:7
- ❖ What you believe will determine how you move – Mar. 5:36; Rom. 10:17
- ❖ Faith focuses on God’s promise, not the problem – Rom. 4:20–21; Num. 14:6–9
- ❖ You must choose faith intentionally – Deu. 30:19; Heb. 10:38
- ❖ Another example: David – Faced Goliath with faith, not fear – 1 Sam. 17:45–47

4. God’s presence is the answer to fear

- ❖ God does not always remove the situation, but He promises His presence – Isa. 41:10; Mat. 28:20
- ❖ His presence provides strength, stability, and confidence – Psa. 23:4; Exo. 33:14
- ❖ You are never facing anything alone – Heb. 13:5–6; Jos. 1:5
- ❖ Confidence grows when you are aware of who is with you – Psa. 27:1; Rom. 8:31
- ❖ Another example: Joshua – Strengthened by God’s promise to be with him – Jos. 1:5–9

5. Move forward even when fear is present

- ❖ Courage is not the absence of fear, but movement in spite of it – Jos. 1:9; Psa. 56:3–4
- ❖ Action breaks the grip of fear – Exo. 14:15–16; Luk. 17:14
- ❖ Obedience activates God’s power – Jam. 2:17; Joh. 2:5
- ❖ Growth happens when you move beyond comfort – Phil. 3:13–14; Isa. 43:18–19
- ❖ Another example: Peter – Walked on water when he stepped out – Mat. 14:29

NOTES:

LESSON 5:

OVERCOMING WITH GRACE – HOW YOU COME BACK MATTERS

Textual Focus: 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Galatians 6:1 (KJV)

What is a Grace-Filled Comeback

- ❖ A comeback with grace is returning from what you've overcome without becoming bitter, vengeful, or arrogant – Eph. 4:31–32; Col. 3:12–13
- ❖ Overcoming is not just about what you defeat, but who you become after – Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 5:17
- ❖ God delivers you not just to free you, but to form Christlike character in you – Rom. 8:29; Tit. 2:11–12

Understanding the Danger After Victory

- ❖ Victory can become dangerous if it produces pride instead of humility – Pro. 16:18; 1 Cor. 10:12
- ❖ It is possible to overcome something externally but still be affected internally
- ❖ Past pain can turn into bitterness if not surrendered to God – Heb. 12:15; Eph. 4:31
- ❖ Unhealed victory can produce arrogance, judgment, or harshness toward others
- ❖ Another example: Jonah: Delivered but still bitter toward others – Jon. 4:1–3

Lesson Points

1. Do not let what you overcame harden your heart

- ❖ Pain and struggle can either soften you or harden you – Heb. 3:13; Rom. 2:4
- ❖ God's intent is transformation, not just survival – Ezek. 36:26; Rom. 12:2
- ❖ Bitterness is a sign something has not been fully released – Heb. 12:15; Eph. 4:31
- ❖ What you hold onto can shape who you become –
- ❖ Another example: Joseph: Although not easy, he chose forgiveness over bitterness – Gen. 42:24, 45:1-2, 50:20

2. Resist the urge for vengeance

- ❖ Overcoming does not give you permission to get even – Rom. 12:19; Pro. 20:22
- ❖ God calls us to release vengeance and trust His justice – Deu. 32:35; Luk. 6:27
- ❖ Holding onto revenge keeps you connected to what God brought you out of
- ❖ Grace frees you from the need to retaliate when you understand it –
- ❖ Another example: David – Refused to harm Saul even when he had the opportunity – 1 Sam. 24:4–6; 1 Sam. 24:10

