

HAVING YOUR GOOD NAME SLANDERED



When we think of fruit of Christianity, many consider love, joy, peace and such as found in Galatians chapter 5, but I wish to shed light that having your name **slandered** may also fruit of your Christianity, much like persecution and being hated is fruit of being a loyal believer.

We should not be surprised if your name is **slandered**, as men of God throughout the Bible were defamed as a result of their faith and if your name is not slandered I say you need examine your walk.

Lamentations 3:46 reads;

"All our enemies have opened their mouths against us"

If you are concerned with what others think about you....then open-air preaching is **NOT** for you, maybe you should minister to feeding the homeless or visiting someone in a hospital, where your labor will be welcomed.

If you are concerned what others have written about you.....again I say, street preaching is **NOT** for you, perhaps you should invest your time in the music ministry or led a youth group at the local Church, where others will appreciate you.

If you are concerned about your good name getting tainted.....may I suggest that proclaiming Jesus in the modern day marketplace is **NOT** for you, maybe you should sit on a few religious committees and keep your sacred name pure. Because there are those who are waiting to hear someone they can use against you.



As anyone that will preach in public will get a foul name as the many before us. The days of revival when open air preaching was used is the exception and not the rule. So if you are concerned with your good name, I truly exhort you to flee open-air preaching and don't look back, or at least consider the cost.

Jeremiah understood this concept as he wrote in Jeremiah 20:8; **"For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me."** He continued that he was daily life was insults and jokes.

Jeremiah was a reproach and disrespected daily, because he spoke what God wanted as he writes; **"To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it"**

God's word is a reproach to many and with that you will be shamed as some will even go out of their way to silence you and think they are serving God.

Brother on brother slander is found everywhere in the Bible. As the stories of slander go beyond the Pharisee and Jesus as remember Cain killed Able, we have the story of Joseph and his brothers, Jacob was hated by Esau, David was despised by Saul and even Job had issues with his wife and close friends. Most of the men that walked with Jesus were jailed and considered as a cult in their world. This should be confirmation of you abiding with God and one should rejoice.

Today your name can be slandered by a newspaper article, news story, blog, youtube clip, newsletter, from the pulpit, by friends or family, co-workers and fellow laborers in Christ. I've even had a tract made to slander my name, complete with my picture and was this was passed out when I preached at certain events. Some of these people will even go as low as to make time and get email addresses of people you know or 'friend' themselves with others on your facebook, and fellowship with people at your Church, for one reason, to defame your name to others.

Proverbs 6 reads; **"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren"**



If you do not think God hates, you will have issues with Proverbs Six, as God does not just hate the sin but the actual human.

As "a proud look" IS A PERSON.

A "lying tongue" IS A BODY PART OF A PERSON.

"Hands" that shed innocent blood IS A BODY PART OF A PERSON.

A "heart" with wicked imaginations IS A BODY PART OF A PERSON.

Feet" running to mischief IS A BODY PART OF A PERSON.

A "false witness" is a PERSON

....God hates this or shall we say HATES THEM?

AND...."HE" that soweth discord among the brothers is a PERSON.
That individual who slanders is beyond hate, he is an ABOMINATION.

This verse proves God can hate humans and not just their sin and that 'sower of discourse' is nothing more than a 'worker of iniquity' as per Psalm 5:5 because he works at his sin and will go out of his way to defame your name.

Over my three decades of service, many people have said, wrote and posted so many things about me, as to what they think I believe, my personal life or hearsay from what they heard. Now I am not talking about hate websites or heathen blogs, not even atheist chat-rooms but religious folks who think they are doing God a service. There is so much character assassination out there that I can not keep up with them, nor do I desire to.

In fact I rejoice as per Matthew 5:11-12; **"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"**



Someone speaking evil against you is evidence of your Christian walk, REJOICE and be HAPPY.

Peter writes in his Epistle'; **"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you"**

See you are in good company. I say this because I do know many believers who are shocked and angry when something is said or written against them.

If you goggled "Ruben Israel Street Preacher" you find post after post written as most are not favorable and make sure you have a few days to read all this stuff as you will find well over hundreds of thousands of sites and articles to read and see.

Now if I had to respond to every post, email, blog, chat-room or youtube link that defamed my name it would take a few people a full time job of 8 hours a day a year to respond, BUT the day I am concerned with what others think about me **is the day I stop street preaching.**

As a number of these sites have accused me of being a Pharisee, heretic, demonic, unloving, a tool of satan, hater, bully, false teacher, cruel, not a true believer, do not know the Bible, unorthodox, false prophet, a cult and having a different gospel. There are pictures of my banners that were photoshopped, stories withholding information and course lies couple with a dash of truth.

Good thing I'm not suicidal or need any anti depression drugs.

Now many open-air and pulpit preachers are deeply concerned with what others may think of them, as this might hinder anyone from supporting their labor or Church. So they will reserve themselves from speaking the truth in public, as this will not offend their supporters.

We are going to read a number of scriptures where men of God were slandered as this should not be **'strange fire'** to anyone but this should be something we should expect as we must have thick skin to not allow these false and unchecked charges to annoy us.

One reason, these accusations do not affect me nor will it change my public message, is because I judge me often. Other than God Himself, I am my hardest critic. So when people say or write something about me, it is like trying to stop an M1 tank in motion with a spit-wad from a plastic straw.

"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man"

Why, is he judged of no man, because he judges and examines himself. His motives are pure, his words are inspired and God will use that spiritual man because others will not speak that truth in the way God wants it done.

It is they who have limited God as to what they will say. Let us look at a number of verses of men of God who had false allegations against them and their character, as we find this written in 2 Chronicles 36:16; **"But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets"**



David

Even David writes'

"They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty"

Being a man after God's heart, he paid a price for it.

He again wrote;

"They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause"

Maybe you feel as David did asking, why are they doing this, what is their reason, other than just hating what God is saying.

This king, this man after God's own heart, was not loved and exalted by people as he wrote;

"But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people"

David even prayed to God saying; **"Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face"**

Isaiah

Isaiah preached; **"Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings"** (51:7).

Isaiah understood this perception as he sheds light on the matter when he writes to those that know righteousness, that they be not afraid from scorn and don't fear insults. That should be as normal as breathing, if of course you are righteous. If you are not righteous, no need to worry.

Jeremiah

In Jeremiah chapter 15:10 we read something very personal regarding the prophet; **"Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me"**

He almost regrets the day he was born as he felt he was a man who contented with the whole world, and in verse 15 we read;

"O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke"

Here the prophet wanted to be comforted from those who persecute him, as he is enduring reproach for God.



Habakkuk

How about Habakkuk, think he got off easy with his service;

"Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and they that raise up strife and contention"

John the Baptist

John the Baptist was slandered as he was accused of having a demon by those same religious people who were most likely envious of what he was doing; **"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil"**

JESUS:

Jesus said in Luke 6:22;

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake"

This is something we should expect if we wish to follow Him. This is fruit of Christianity, being hated, people avoiding you, reproaching you and slandering your name. Nothing about prosperity and living a joyful life found in that verse.

Our Lord was questioned about His education, only to find fault and later accused Him of blasphemy as they said; **"Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?"**

We hear this often from religious people, who are your leaders they ask? Who is your pastor? Who ordained you? Do you have an education and where did you go to school? Who are they that gives you counsel you or are you just a loose cannon? This is what is being said to Jesus. Who does He sit under, who is His leader and what religious school did He attend, as He was considered a lone rebel. They not only wanted to question Him, they were on a fault finding mission.

Later He was accused of casting out devils by Beelzebub and was called a **"glutton and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners"**

To say you are not moved by the Spirit of God but demons, is truly blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Calling a work of God of the devil is pure evil and will not be forgiven as per Matthew 12:31. Again more lies and slander, as Jesus was not a friend of sinners in the sense that he hung around them as His buddies? They followed Him, they brought the sick and demonic to Him and they wanted to hear Him as He spoke with authority unlike the religious of that day.

The birth of Jesus was even questioned by some as John records; **"Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication"**

These guys did some investigation work on Jesus and the math did not add up as our Lord was accused being born in fornication because Joseph and Mary were not married when Mary was pregnant.

In Mark chapter 3 we read **"And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him"** and chapter 11 we read **"And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him"**

They wanted to 'destroy Him' Jesus. This is what your modern day Pharisee will do with you. Slandering your name is just the start, they wish to **destroy you** and they will even unite with other groups that they disagree with, just to defame what you do and who you are.

In John 16 Jesus warns his disciples that they will be put out of synagogues and even kill them, so be happy if all that happens to you is slander

In Mark chapter 12 we find three different groups of people trying to 'fault find' with the ministry of Jesus but notice how these snakes spoke to Him as they wanted to catch Him in His words and then use those same words against Him.

Group 1 (verses 13-17) **"And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words. And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the**

person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?"

These people wanted Jesus to speak against the king so they could report Him to the authorities that He is trying to start a coup against Rome.

Group 2 (verses 18-26) **"Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying, Master...."**

Again these people started off with a nice word calling Him 'Master' but wanted to catch Him in His own words to unite the religious community against Him. How many believers appear to be nice and loving but will sell you out without hesitation.

Group 3 (verses 28-34) **"And one of the scribes came..."**

And they asked which commandment is the greatest and Jesus responded with **"love the Lord thy God with all thy heart"** and **"love thy neighbour as thyself"**

As we know if you love God with all your heart, mind and soul, you will not worship other gods, nor take God's name in vain and if you love your neighbor, you will not lie to him, steal from him and murder him. Therefore by those two commandments the Ten can be fulfilled.

Now watch what Jesus said to these scribes who responded to the words of Jesus as truthful. He said to them; **"Thou art not far from the kingdom of God"**

The lesson we must learn from Mark 12 is that we must have discernment, as not everyone is out to get you and catch you in your words. You must have that sensitivity to know this and not treat everyone the same.

There are open-air preachers that would love to Matthew 18 the entire world, because of personal issues.

Pick your battles and know what is needed to be said to whoever and avoid your 'friendly fire' as everyone is not out to get you. This is why we have this example where Jesus had the judgment of answering their question and not assuming the last group was like the first two.



ACTS

In the book of Acts chapter 5 we read where the Apostles were before the council for false charges; **"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name"**

They rejoiced to suffer shame for the name of Jesus. Now if you feel the need to put out every fire against you or clarify everything written about you, I say you are not open-air material.

In Acts chapter 13 we get insight as to why people will slander; **"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming"**

They were filled with envy.

I have found open air preachers might be envy that you can get and maintain a crowd and no one hangs around them when they preach.

To say that slander and gossip is not fruit of Christianity, one does not need to read the entire the book of Acts. Just read chapter 13 and 14 to conclude that sinners slander these men and tried to slur them. In chapter 13 the people of the city stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas which removed them from that region. In the 14th chapter, we find Jews who followed the Apostles and stirred up the Gentiles against the Apostles, as the city was divided and a plot was made to kill those men of God.

Wonder if those men were prayed up?

Wonder if they only wanted to taunt the city?

If they really wanted to save souls why not just start up a band and sing instead of preaching?

Wonder if their motive was judged?

Were they accused of using 'shock and awe' tactics to draw a crowd?

Slander kept Paul in prison as found in Acts 24, where after Paul was in prison for two years and Felix was succeeded by Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.

In Acts 28 we find Paul in Rome and giving his testimony as he said; **"But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against"**

His testimony was that everywhere he spoke, he was spoken against. Not received.

It is recorded what Festus once said to the Apostle Paul;

"Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, you are beside yourself; much learning does make you mad"

In other words, Paul, you are crazy man. This was said about Jesus in Mark chapter three as He was accused of being 'beside himself' or in modern terms, he is nuts.

EPISTLES:

Paul writes to the Church in Rome;

"And not rather, as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say"

Paul to the Church in Corinth;

"Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day"



True fruit of Christianity may not be having everyone think kindly of you as Paul writes speaking of what a real Church should look like; **"By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things"**

As a Christian, you will be dishonored, have evil reports made against you, considered a deceiver, you are unknown, a dying breed, even sorrowful. Do we see this today, maybe you need to examine your walk if no one has called you an 'evil doer.'

Peter writes; **"Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers"**

1Peter 3:16

If you wish to preserve your good name, please stay away from open-air preaching as you will be considered an offense to the Body of Christ.

Do I like everything I have heard from street preachers? No, but I will not go out of my way to disparage them, I rejoice that the Word of God was being preached as per Phil 1:15-18

"Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."



You will not be liked for many reasons, they don't like your message, your method you used is wrong, your signs or banners are bad, any verse or saying used on those sandwich signs are not gospel. Some have issues with the message on our t-shirts, or my political view. Others find fault in what tracts you pass out or why you do not give out full Bibles. They will charge you of looking mean, having no joy and others will accuse you of joking to much or just not keeping with the gospel. You will be told that you do not quote Bible verses, than if you do quote them, you are attacked for taking them out of context and not knowing your Bible. You don't sing when you preach, you need to give out water, you never invite people to Church and you are too judgmental. And of course the famous, you are too condemning and taunt sinners.

Bottom line is people will fault find things in your life or what they think you have said and if they don't like you for one reason, they will not like you for another reason. The Bible is true when it reads; **"We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept"**

No matter what you will do or what you will say, people will not be happy with you and will slander your name and labor, so I remain focused on the mission and anticipate my name smeared. If it happens to those in the Bible, it will happen to you and when it does REJOICE.



Slander is fruit of your faith and if your name is not slandered, you need to examine yourself.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"
2 Corinthians 13:5