

COLOSSIANS

DAY 4

Colossians 4

read [here](#)

REMEMBER MY CHAINS

Colossians 4:5-6 (NLT)

“Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.”

Colossians 4:5-6 (TPT)

“Walk in the wisdom of God as you live before the unbelievers, and make it your duty to make him known. Let every word you speak be drenched with grace and tempered with truth and clarity. For then you will be prepared to give a respectful answer to anyone who asks about your faith.”

Recently I read a quote that said, “inconvenience is not oppression” to which I would add, nor is it persecution. We can’t meet right now and that is frustrating. Inconvenient. Uncomfortable. Discouraging, even. But it is not oppression or persecution. In fact, there are very few places in the world where it is more comfortable to be a Christian than in North America.

When Paul says “remember my chains,” (vs. 18) we are reminded first and foremost that we are not in chains or imprisoned. We are free to live out the love and the wisdom of God before the unbelieving world. When we see our inconveniences as persecution, we lose sight of the mission: the lost. This isn’t about ignoring our struggles, but walking through them with grace, authenticity, and trust in the One who walks with us. This testimony of faith can change the hearts and lives of unbelievers.

Second, we are reminded that comfort has become our biggest idol. We are so preoccupied with our comfort, our stuff, our successes, our appearance, our vacations, and our wants, which are often perceived as needs. We give our ten percent and demand a comfortable church experience in return. We forget that the New Testament church was a church that gave everything so that everyone had what they needed (Acts 2:44-45). Rather than look into our neighbour’s bowl to make sure they have enough, we look into their bowl and allow comparison to steal our joy.

Finally, essentially, we are reminded that there is a global church, many of whom face tremendous, terrifying persecution. There are people who love Jesus so much that they are willing to sacrifice every earthly thing they have - their comfort, their stuff, their wants, their needs, and their very lives - for the cause of Christ. Remember their chains.

How can you educate yourself on the global church and the various people groups that experience persecution? How will you allow that information to shift your perspective of your personal situation and experiences?

What is God speaking to me about in today’s reading?

MY PRAYER FOR TODAY: