

ENGLISH TRAINING FOR MISSION



reach the unreached.

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TRAINING UNIT 19 (50.43 MINUTES)

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The 9th commandment of sending:

Be prepared for rejection and persecution!

Spiritual warfare

10 common forms of persecution.....

10 important principles of persecution

➔ *Part II: Application*

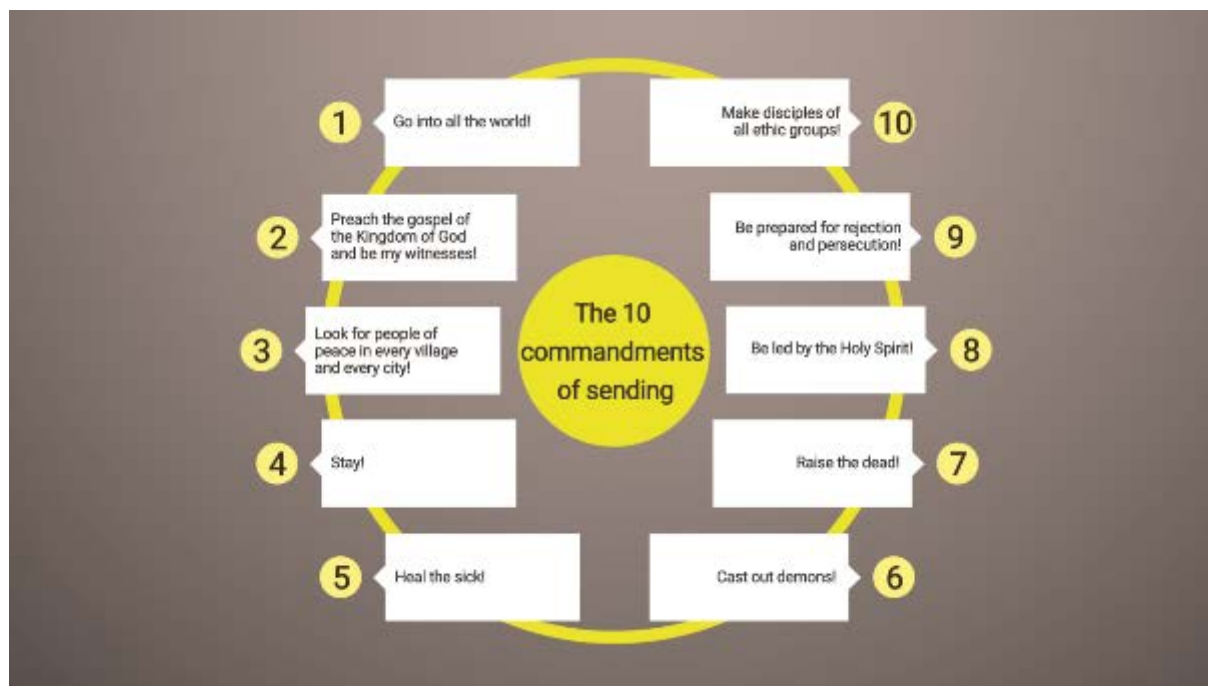
➔ *Part III: Outreach*

Training Unit 19



The 9th commandment of sending:

Be prepared for rejection and persecution!



- ➔ The Lord said it in a very straightforward way:
There is **no sending** without fights, rejection, persecution and suffering!



I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

The enemy is a **thief** (John 10,10), a **liar** and a **murderer of people** (John 8,44) from the beginning, therefore he will **not stand on the sidelines** and accept that we **invade territory controlled by him and proclaim the Kingdom of God!**

- One of the principles for the coming of the Kingdom of God and for the message of the cross is:

Through suffering to glory, through dying to life.

The Lord himself addresses persecution at length in Matthew 10, one of the **core sending texts**:

Matthew 10:12-26

As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time, you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

Spiritual warfare

We are being sent as sheep = born-again followers of Jesus among the wolves

- demons
 - demon-possessed people
 - people whose thoughts, speech and actions are under demonic influence
- ➔ thus, our fight is not simply against "flesh and blood" (differences in opinion), but there is a spiritual battle at the deepest level, which is manifested in our bodies and souls.

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Example: Conversion of a Satanist who came to a church service

At first, the preacher was not able to write his sermon because every time he began to write, a film of all the sins he ever committed played before his inner eyes. Then he was knocked

over as he was getting his Bible, even though there was no one present. This was clearly from the invisible world. This push resulted in a nose injury followed even by hospitalization. During the sermon, the Satanist fell into a trance and tried to kill himself with a knife. Then the Satanist's mother called and said that she is always praying for her son, but is menaced by demons and nightmares regularly at night. Then the man who invited the Satanist called, saying that he could not go to work anymore due to problems with his nervous system.
→ Hostile opposition was huge!!

The above-mentioned passage from Matthew 10 mentions 10 common forms of persecution:

10 common forms of persecution

- 1) If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words
→ **Lacking acceptance, rejecting the message, asking to leave**
- 2) You will be handed over to the local councils (or courts)
«**Legal rejection**» (anti-conversion laws and the like), but also discriminations (being banned from school or having to pay more school fees, not receiving a good job or apartment, etc.)
- 3) Brought before governors and kings
→ **Rejection, contempt and mockery by the “wise of this world” (the esteemed, intelligent, educated and powerful).**
- 4) The head of the house has been called Beelzebul
→ **Perversion of truth: good is called evil and evil is presented as good. The disciples experience the same things as Jesus—like master, like servant.**
- 5) You will be hated by everyone
→ **Pure hate**
- 6) Persecuted in one place
→ **Local or regional persecution**
- 7) Flogged
→ **Bodily persecution**
- 8) In their synagogues
→ **Religious persecution (by other religions) or even persecution by Christians of other denominations**
- 9) Brother will betray brother to death
→ **Resistance, betrayal and persecution within the church**
- 10) And a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.
→ **Resistance, betrayal and persecution within the family**

Example 1) Haafiz's wife attempted to poison him.

Example 2) Oromo region: First, someone announced through the loudspeakers of the mosques that the Gospel is wrong, then there were beatings. Later, the trainees were put in prison, then the house of a trainee was set on fire, and then a mob of 190 Muslims beheaded one of the trainee's disciples.

10 important principles of persecution

1st Principle

Everyone who wants to do the right thing and walk in the ways of God will be attacked by the evil one.

Hebrews 11:35-38

Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

2nd Principle

The disciples of Jesus will experience persecution just like the Lord experienced it himself. This goes together with being **transformed into the likeness of Christ.**

Matthew 10:25

It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

John 15:18-20

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

3rd Principle

Persecution is one aspect of **carrying the cross of Christ.**

- The cross never was and is not primarily a nice piece of jewelry for Christians.
- **The cross is a cruel instrument of torture and death.**

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 14:27

And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

4th Principle

The Lord lets us be a real part of the coming and building of the Kingdom of God. **And thus, he also lets us partake in his sufferings**, so we may “fill up what is still lacking”.

Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

- ➔ This privilege to complete **the sufferings of Christ** on his behalf gave the Apostles great joy:

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

5th Principle

Paralyzing fear and anxiety:

- of mental and physical pain and mistreatment
- of existential needs
- of losing family and friends
- of rejection
- of fear
- of isolation (living underground)
- of shortage
- of chains, prison, etc.

...are one of the **main tactics** of the enemy to stop the spreading of the Gospel.

→ The attacks of the enemy are often very direct in new territories and unreached places. → People are directly being persecuted and killed. In places more reached with the Gospel, the persecution is more disguised.

Example Saida – first there was an existential fight, then her daughter died, but during the burial there was a breakthrough.

Example Milosh – first there were huge blessings – many conversions with baptisms, then the pressure of the enemy increased, first he was robbed and then his son was shot.

Matthew 10:26+28

So do not be afraid of them. (...) Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

6th Principle

The joy of the Holy Spirit drives out this fear.

Nehemiah 8:10

Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Matthew 5:12

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 5:40-42

They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

7th Principle

In persecution, **Jesus is especially close to us and hears our prayers** – and there even is a breakthrough of the Gospel.

Daniel 3:24-25

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Acts 4:23-31

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: " 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.' Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

8th Principle

Great reward is promised to those who are persecuted for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 5:11-12

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Revelation 2:10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

9th Principle

Sometimes (depending on the guidance of the Holy Spirit), it is right to avoid persecution.

Matthew 12:14-15

But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.

Matthew 10:23

When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Acts 9:23-25

After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order

to kill him. But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

Example: In the Caucasus region Artur was shot in front of the church. His successor and his family were also threatened to be killed. The man went underground and when he came back after 3 weeks he continued his ministry – until today.

10th Principle

The Biblical way to deal with persecutors is to bless them and to pray for them.

Luke 6:28

Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Example of Trainee 1: He was beaten and he was denied access to water. Later, a water source was found on his property and he built a well, so that all the people from his village could have access to this water.

→ He blesses the people from his village with water although they had denied it to him before.

Example of Trainee 2: He was put in jail. During the daily Islamic prayers, the Christians began to bless the prison guards, even those, who had persecuted them. These prayers opened the hearts of the Muslims in that prison.

Example from India: “Is it true, that your Holy Book says, if someone hits you on your left cheek that you should also turn the other cheek?”. Then this strong man answered: “It is also written that it is more blessed to give than to receive.” The potential persecutor immediately changed his idea to beat him.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Luke 23:34

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- The World Watch List published by Open Doors is a **ranking of 50 countries that shows where Christians experience the most intense persecution.**
- About 650 million Christians live in these **50 countries** that are listed on the World Watch List.
- In 36 of these 50 countries, **Islamic extremism** is described to be the driving force of persecution, which makes it the dominant factor by far.
- According to a new estimation, about 200 million (almost one third) of them suffer from a **high degree of discrimination and persecution.**
- Christians are the most strongly persecuted **religious community** worldwide.
- Further understanding of persecution of Christians:

Persecution does not only mean that the state does the following to an individual or to whole groups of Christians because of their faith:

 - Put them in prison
 - Injure them
 - Torture them or
 - Kills them, as is the **reality in many countries.**

Persecution also includes:

 - when Christians lose their employment and livelihood because of their faith.

- when children receive no education or only a poor education **because of their faith** or the **faith of their parents**.
- when Christians are being driven from their **home country** because of their faith.
- when members of other religions are **prohibited by law or society to convert to Christianity** or to confess their Christian faith.

Therefore, persecution is when Christian believers expect negative consequences for their family, property, body or life.

Part II: Application

- a) Someone from the group summarizes this teaching in his own words. If anything is missing, the others can add to the summary.

- b) Group discussion.

- c) Write down personal insights from the teaching.

- d) Share with the group about the struggles, rejection, persecution and sufferings you have experienced in your ministry.

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- e) What are your main fears with regard to rejection, persecution and suffering?
→ Pray together and for each other.
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- f) Pray for the 200 million persecuted Christians in the world and also pray for the persecutors!
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- g) Each group presents what they learned and presents the precise goals of how to put things into practice to the other groups during the outreach.
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Part III: Outreach

Regular prayer walks (4 to 6 hours/week) and going and preaching (6 to 9 hours/week).
Practicing...

1. PRAYER: prayer walks with team and partner ☐
2. GO: to the unreached you have a heart for ☐
3. Look for persons of peace ☐
4. PREACH: the gospel of the Kingdom of God ☐
5. EXPLAINING: the way of salvation ☐
6. Evangelistic Bible studies with interested people ☐
7. Share your personal testimony with others ☐
8. Call to repentance and to follow Jesus ☐
9. FAITH, REPENTANCE, BAPTISM AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT ☐
10. Pray for sick people during an outreach ☐
11. Raise a dead person if you are led to do so ☐
12. Seek to hear God's voice and the guidance of the Holy Spirit
 - Go on 5 treasure hunts ☐
13. Pray for the 200 million persecuted Christians in the world, pray for your "persecutors" and bless those who are cursing you. ☐

BEsent is a training - without practice it is almost useless!