November 1st, 2015 - Travesty, Part VI

What a finale!

Status Quo Christian's?

It's an oxymoron isn't it! The definition of <u>oxymoron</u> is "a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction" and the definition of <u>status quo</u> means, "the current situation, the way things are now, the existing state of affairs". For example, 'they are content with the status quo and do not like change'.

Can Christians live in the "status quo"? It's an oxymoron. Yet many Christians like living the status quo, they don't want to be different, or want change. However, the word of God says in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; "...so come out from among unbelievers and be separate...".

In these last scenes of Travesty, we see clearly that Steven Briar and Bob Mylon have broken out of what has become the status quo in the Christian community; that being the merchandising of the gospel of Jesus Christ. According to some in the script, Jesus is just good business and they market Jesus as the world does.

When you break out of the status quo, you can expect rebuttal, persecution, trials and the like, not only from the secular or worldly system, but also from within the Christian community. Here are some scriptures we read and meditated on showing how God will watch over you when you break through the status quo.

- > 2 Peter 2:9; "then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgement." ESV
- > 2 Thessalonians 3:3; "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one." ESV
- Ephesians 3:17-20; "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through your faith. And may you, having been [deeply] rooted and [securely] grounded in love, be fully capable of comprehending with all the saints (God's people) the width and length and height and depth of His love [fully experiencing that amazing, endless love]; and [that you may come] to know [practically, through personal experience] the love of Christ which far surpasses [mere] knowledge [without experience], that you may be filled up [throughout your being] to all the fullness of god [so that you may have the richest experience of God's presence in your lives, completely filled and flooded with God Himself]. Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and} do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes or dreams], according to His power that is at work within us". AMP

This is ours when we don't follow the status quo. He will do SUPERABUNDANTLY MORE than we can ask, think or imagine! Don't you want to live like this?

Our hero's of faith refused to live the status quo. They were different, they were pioneers, and they broke out of the norm. Be encouraged to not be a conformist as you read <u>Hebrews 11</u> ! Go beyond the comfort of the status quo.

Psalm 91; "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand]. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust [with great confidence, and on whom I rely]!" For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall. You will not be afraid of the terror of night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction (sudden death) that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but danger will not come near you. You will only [be a spectator as you] look on with your eyes and witness the [divine] repayment of the wicked [as you watch safely from the shelter of the Most High].
Because you have made the LORD, [who is] my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent. For He will command His angels in regard to you, to protect and defend and guard you in all your ways [of obedience and service]. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you do not [even] strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and cobra; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. "Because he set his love on Me, therefore I will save him; I will set him [securely] on high, because he knows My name [he confidently trusts and relies on Me,

knowing I will never abandon him, no, never]. "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. "With a long life I will satisfy him and I will let him see My salvation." AMP

Psalm 27; "The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the refuge and fortress of my life – whom shall I dread? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, even in this I am confident. One thing I have asked of the Lord, and that I will seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty [the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur] of the Lord and to meditate in his temple. For in the day of trouble He will hide me in His shelter; in the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, in His tent I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord."

We watched a short video which brings a chilling reality to what happens to us when we fall into the Status Quo! It's called <u>Faith Uprising</u> by Planetshakers.

In summing up Travesty, I'd like to leave you with I Corinthians 2 and verse 12 in particular where it says; "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the [Holy] Spirit who is from God, so that we may know and understand the [wonderful] things <u>FREELY</u> given to us by God." Paul is referencing the wisdom that God has now given the church, which had been a mystery and hidden, but with Jesus' life, death and resurrection, that wisdom has now been revealed <u>FREELY</u> to us by the Holy Spirit. So, our revelations, illuminations and inspirations....have all come <u>FREELY</u> from Jesus through the Holy Spirit who now lives in us. If it was <u>FREELY</u> given, how can we ever put a price tag on it? Do you think you could ever pay Jesus or the Holy Spirit for your revelations, your illuminations or inspirations? Seems crazy right...but in the Christian world its being done day in and out. Christians should not live in the status quo. Be a hero of faith in this generation. Let's not merchandize nor put a price tag on anything any longer which came freely through the cross of Calvary.

A quote from Michael Faraday, an English chemist and physicist; "The Bible, and it alone, with nothing added to it nor taken away from it by man, is the sole and sufficient guide for each individual, at all times and in all circumstances."

The gospel is free but it will cost you your life.