

Persecution

Kingdom value or skill you hope to see developed: perseverance under trial

Who this is for: seekers and Christians

Desired impact on disciples: trusting God over the world

Desired impact on campus/home/others:

Hear the word

Matthew 10:16-22, 1 Peter 2:13-21

"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."

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

- What should followers of Jesus be prepared for?
- How does God provide in the midst of it?
- What do we learn about authority? About the world's? About God's?
- Have you experienced persecution?

Respond actively

Look at where persecution happens around the world. What is it like in your home country? In the U.S.? In your city? Pray together for persecuted Christians.

Debrief and Interpret

- How did you feel discussing persecution?
- What was it like to pray for others?
- What did you learn about God? Yourself?

Expand the influence

Besides praying, how can you fight persecution?