

persecution

HC

WHEN DID JESUS SPEAK ABOUT PERSECUTION?

IN MATTHEW

Matthew 5:10–12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake... rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven; for so they persecuted the prophets before you.

Matthew 10:16–23

You will be hated by all for my name's sake... when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next.

Matthew 24:9–14

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.

IN MARK

Mark 13:9–13

You will be delivered over to councils... beaten in synagogues... hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

IN LUKE

Luke 6:22–23

Blessed are you when people hate you, exclude you, revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice... your reward is great in heaven.

Luke 10:3; 12:4–12

I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more they can do.

Luke 21:12–19

They will lay their hands on you and persecute you... some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.

IN JOHN

John 15:18–20; 16:1–4

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you... A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

John 16:33

In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

SOME TRUTHS ABOUT PERSECUTION

PERSECUTION IS NORMAL AND EXPECTED

Persecution is not an accident but an inevitable reality for those who believe in Jesus.

PERSECUTION IS HISTORICALLY CONSISTENT

Disciples share in the fate of the prophets in the Old Testament and of Jesus Himself.

WE ARE CALLED TO ENDURE

Disciples are marked by perseverance despite suffering.

WE ARE PROMISED A REWARD AND HOPE

Present hostility is endured with a promised future reward and God's vindication.

WE ARE GIVEN THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE

The Holy Spirit strengthens disciples to bear witness under persecution (*Matt 10:20; Luke 12:12; and all across Acts*).

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING

According to Jesus, what kinds of reactions (hatred, slander, betrayal, violence) should His followers expect from the world, and how does He connect this to His own experience?

In what ways does Jesus link persecution with the experience of the Old Testament prophets, and why is that significant for understanding Christian identity?

What promises does Jesus attach to persecution (e.g., reward in heaven, the Spirit's help, assurance of salvation), and how do these promises reshape the way believers view suffering?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Jesus says persecution is both inevitable and a blessing. How does that challenge or affirm your own assumptions about what it means to follow Him faithfully?

Knowing that persecution reveals loyalty to Jesus, are there things you avoid in your faith because of the criticism you'll get from others?

Jesus emphasizes endurance and joy in the face of suffering. What practical steps or attitudes could help you personally endure faithfully even if you experience hostility for your faith?

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MATTHEW 5:10-12

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