

INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL
STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW
Text: Matthew 10
Subject: SENDING OUT THE APOSTLES

7 MAY 2023

²¹ "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! ²⁶ Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Matthew 10:21-26

1. Possible ways in which Persecution may come

- a) The Family can be divided
 - i) Those who believe in the Lord Jesus
 - ii) Those who do not
- b) The Non-believing members of the Family
 - i) They can become hostile
 - ii) They can be severely abusive
- c) Hatred
 - i) Personal hatred
 - ii) Religious hatred
 - iii) Hated because of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

2. The challenge

- a) To understand
- b) To be prepared for possible intense suffering
- c) To be able to endure all things for the sake of the Lord

- d) Fleeing from one city to another

3. Appropriate responses

- a) It is not wrong to flee when one's life is in obvious danger
- b) Paul and Barnabas had to flee cities Acts 13-14
 - i) Antioch, Pisidia
 - ii) Lystra and Derbe
 - iii) Thessalonica

HOW CAN WE COPE?

1. Consider

- a) The example of the Lord Jesus
- b) Our call to be identified with the Lord

2. Principles to live by:

- a) We are Disciples
- b) We are not above the Lord Jesus as a Teacher
- c) If He had to endure suffering
 - i) Being sneered at
 - ii) Being accused of being in league with Beelzebub
- d) We, who are of His household, must be prepared for persecution too

3. Cultivate

- a) Faith
- b) Fortitude
- c) Fearlessness
- d) Full of the Spirit of God

4. A poignant Truth

- a) All things are not fully revealed yet
- b) One day, God will shine through and vindicate in victory

