

Text: John 16:1-4

Subject: Persecution

INTRODUCTION

1. The Lord Jesus had warned His disciples that they would be hated
John 15:18-25
2. We must learn how to cope with suffering

EARLY MENTION

¹⁶ *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

¹⁷ *But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.*

¹⁸ *You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.*

¹⁹ *But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;*

²⁰ *for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*

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 10:16-26

1. Forms of suffering
 - a) Scourging
 - b) Delivered

- c) Hated
- d) Persecuted

2. We can cope

- a) The Spirit of God will help us
- b) We identify with the Lord Jesus
- c) We need not worry

ANOTHER REMINDER

¹ *“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.*

² *They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.*

³ *And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.*

⁴ *But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.*

“And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

John 16:1-4

1. Why were these warnings given?

- a) To be prepared
- b) To prevent stumbling
- c) To remember what the Lord Jesus said

2. There was only a brief mention at the beginning

3. Now, there was a need to be even more prepared

HOW DO WE COPE WITH SUFFERING?

²¹ *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

²² *“Who committed no sin,
Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;*

²³ who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

²⁴ who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

²⁵ For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2:21-25

1. We follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus
2. We follow the example of the Lord Jesus
3. We commit our souls to God