

Jesus is not Safe

Matthew 10:16-42 - NCBC, April 19, 2020

Main Point: **Expect to be persecuted when you become like Jesus.** (16)

- Expect **religious** persecution (17)
 - Don't be **surprised** – Jesus calls you to become like Him (24-25)
Our greatest pursuit: Imitating Jesus!
- Expect **political** persecution (18-20)
 - Don't be **anxious** – Jesus provides all you need (20, 26-33)
Our greatest privilege: Proclaiming Jesus!
- Expect **family** persecution (21)
 - Don't be **double-minded** – Jesus deserves supreme loyalty (34-39)
Our greatest passion: Worshipping Jesus!
- Expect **life-long** persecution (22-23)
 - Don't **give up** – Jesus rewards you eternally (40-42)
Our greatest promise: Living with Jesus!

Opening Announcements:

- **Remember to visit myncbc.org** and follow our NCBC Facebook page to stay informed on all ministry/event updates during this season of sheltering.

<<Jesus is Mine>>



When all else fails, Jesus still remains. I pray every soul listening right now can truly sing those words with the meekness of faith: Jesus is Mine.

It's time for us to open God's Word together. The public reading of Scripture is one of the highlights of our worship together, isn't it?¹ It's the one time each week when all of God's children stop what they are doing, get quiet, and together listen to the reading of God's life-giving Words.

So please prepare to read from **Matthew chapter 10**. And while you are opening your Bibles, let me just remind you again that the links alongside your livestream provide you with the sermon notes, children's coloring pages, and the sermon-stretcher follow-up activities for families. At any time you can pause this video, download and print those files, and then come back to rejoin our worship as soon as you have the notes in front of you.

Today we will be reading from Matthew **chapter 10, verses 16 to 42**.

¹ 1 Timothy 4:13

A couple of weeks ago, in the first 15 verses of this chapter, we considered each of the 12 apostles and Jesus' marching orders for Gospel ministry among the lost sheep of the house of Israel.² Now today we will hear the rest of Jesus' commands for His sent ones.

In **chapter 9 verse 38**, Jesus taught us to: *Pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

Now in **chapter 10** Jesus answers those prayers by sending out the 12. And while the first audience of Jesus' commands was obviously the 12, these warnings are still very applicable to the church today. Here Jesus warns that following Him requires suffering and dying to self. Following Him means you will be persecuted or mistreated at times. To be like Jesus is dangerous in the midst of a wicked world. Christlikeness is not safe.

Please read with me now from **Matthew chapter 10, verse 16**, in the English Standard Version:

¹⁶ *“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have*

them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns 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 the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*

²⁶ *“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.*

²⁷ *What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*

³⁴ *“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and*

² Matthew 10:5-6

follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

⁴⁰ *“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.* ⁴¹ *The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.* ⁴² *And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”*

This is God’s Word.

Let’s Pray Together.

The red letters we just read from **Matthew 10** are not meant to scare or frighten us. Jesus simply wants us to have right expectations. Jesus loves us enough to warn and caution us, so that we are not caught off guard when we encounter costly rejection of our life in Christ.

Now clearly – **Matthew 10** is about persecution, *not* pandemics. But a worldwide pandemic like COVID-19 certainly heightens everyone’s concern for *personal safety*.

³ As Christ’s ambassadors in this world, we must be careful to not overlay the persecution card. God’s church is not being persecuted by a government who asks us to refrain from corporate worship gatherings in an effort to curb the spread of disease and death among her citizens. In fact, 1 Peter calls the church to seek to “do good” to our neighbors in times of distress. For an eloquent explanation of these thoughts I highly recommend

Every one of our lives have been disrupted in some way by our collective concern for health, safety, and life in recent weeks. And as God’s people, we are thankful to serve our community’s common good by making personal sacrifices and disrupting our own plans in order to love and protect our neighbors from life-threatening harm.³

God’s people always value human life more than we value economics, or traditions, or personal convenience – because all human life reflects the image of God Himself!⁴ Whenever we sacrifice for the lives of the unborn, or the vulnerable, or the aged, or the poor...we advocate for life on the grounds that every soul valuably bears the image of our Creator. You could say, we are “*For life*,” because we are ultimately “*For Jesus*.”⁵

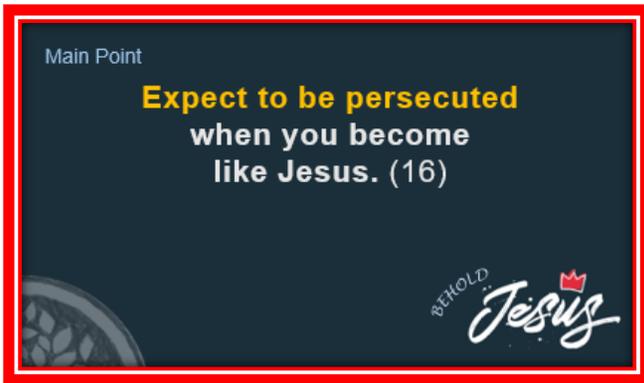
And that’s important. Because Christ-followers do not hold physical life, or health, or safety as our highest or ultimate concern. Jesus speaks in the middle of today’s pandemic to remind us that self-preservation is not *the* highest value for His children.

Matthew 10 is clear – whoever wants a safe life, a life free from all danger, should stay far away from Jesus. For the more we become like Jesus in a world that hates Jesus, the more this world will treat us like it treated Jesus.

Pastor David Gundersen’s April 6, 2020 blog article entitled “Is the church an essential service?” found at <https://davidagundersen.com/2020/04/06/is-the-church-an-essential-service/>.

⁴ Genesis 1:27; 5:1

⁵ Colossians 1:16-17



Jesus wants us to be prepared: **You should expect to be persecuted when you become like Jesus.**

Listen church, God has saved us from sin, placed His Spirit in us, and made us His own possession as a kingdom of His priests all for His glory.⁶ All so that we would proclaim the excellencies of His gospel to lost people on their way to hell.

Verse 16 is like a category heading for this entire second half of **Matthew 10**:

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Yes, Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth,⁷ and yes His Spirit is in us to empower our witness...but from an earthly perspective, our mission will seem a bit *kamikaze* at times,⁸ because Jesus is sending out vulnerable and simple sheep into the predatory wolf packs of this world.

⁶ 1 Peter 2:9-10

⁷ Matthew 28:18, 20; c.f. 10:1, 8

⁸ Romans 8:36

Jesus' mission is not safe. But once your soul has met Jesus and been freed from slavery to self-love, you no longer live for yourself!⁹ When self is no longer your god, personal safety is no longer your priority. Instead, you acknowledge and accept the dangers of Christ-likeness – sheep living like serpents and doves.

Wise as serpents means cautious and smart. Not needlessly provoking anger or courting trouble. In other words, Jesus' "sent ones" know when to speak, and when to stay quiet.¹⁰

Innocent as doves means harmless and gentle. Not abrasive or violent. Our ministry to unbelievers is one of integrity and kindness¹¹ – even when their responses are like ferocious wolves.

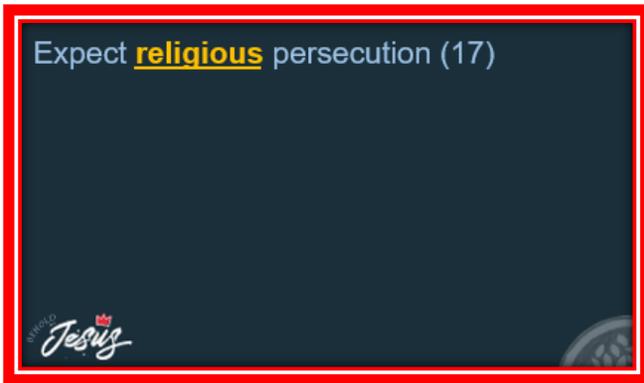
So with this categorical call to cautious gentleness, Jesus now prepares His disciples for 4 different kinds of persecution. These four types of persecution are head-lined in **verses 17-23**, and then each further explained in **verses 24-42**.

So let's begin with **verse 17** where Jesus warns us to,

⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁰ Colossians 4:5

¹¹ 1 Thessalonians 2:3; c.f. Hebrews 7:26



Expect religious persecution.

As you live under Jesus' lordship in the world, watch out, or be on guard for, religious opposition.

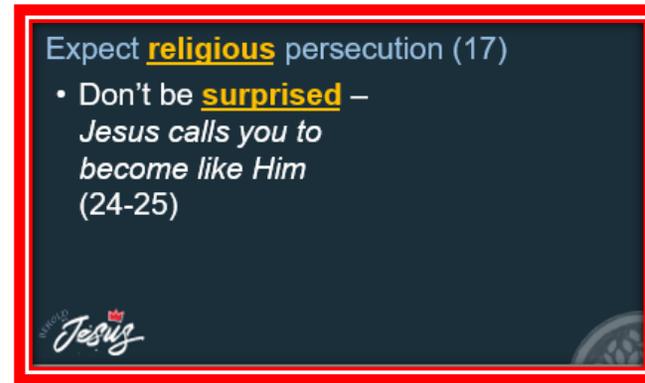
Verse 17 speaks of courts – literally “Sanhedrins” – or the complex system of Jewish courts within the synagogues, or Jewish gathering places, which had the authority to pronounce verdicts and execute judgment for all violations of religious tradition.¹² The most typical penalty was flogging, or being whipped 39 times.¹³

So don't be naïve. All man-made religion hates the truth of salvation by God's grace alone.

Until the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the majority of persecution of Christians was by the Jews. Today, the greatest global persecution of Christians comes from the religion of Islam. Religious people will believe they are doing a holy service for God by opposing you.¹⁴

¹² Deuteronomy 25:1

¹³ One less than the maximum 40 stripes allowed by Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 25:2-3); For examples of this in practice, c.f. Acts 22:19 and



So don't be surprised by religious persecution. Jesus calls you to become like Him.

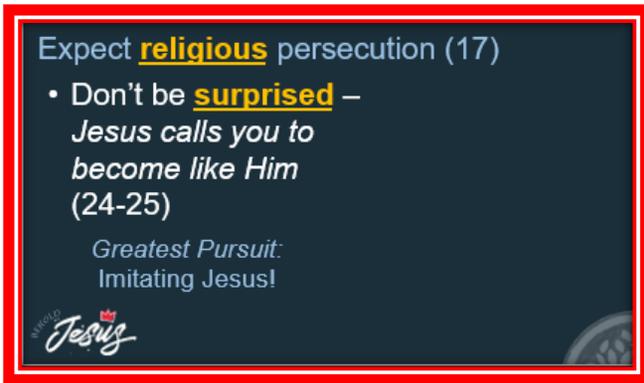
Verses 24-25 help us understand that religious persecution is part of following Jesus.

A student is not more important than his teacher. A servant should not be treated better than his master.

Disciples necessarily submit to their teacher or master. In fact, the greatest outcome of any discipleship is imitation. The whole goal of discipleship is to share in Jesus' life! We follow Jesus not for worldly prosperity or safety, but so that we might become more like Him, and better reflect His glories to the world.

2 Corinthians 11:24.

¹⁴ John 16:2



Christian, *our greatest pursuit is imitating Jesus!* Imitation is the heart of discipleship! So we must not expect to be treated better than Jesus was treated on earth.

Remember how the religious Pharisees treated Jesus? In **Matthew 9, verse 34** they attributed His ministry to Satan himself! In **chapter 12 verse 24** the religious leaders claimed Jesus got His power from Beelzebul,¹⁵ the prince of demons.

So then **verse 25**:

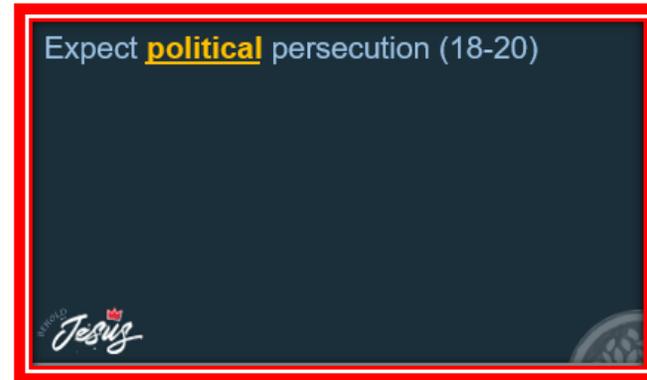
If they called the master ... Beelzebul (a Jewish name for Satan)...how much more will they malign those of his household.

Loved ones, true Christians desire nothing more, and settle for nothing less, than knowing and becoming more like Jesus.

¹⁵ *Beelzebul*, or alternatively *Beelzebub*, was the chief god of Ekron (2 Kings 1:2). It was likely an ancient name for Baal, a Canaanite storm/fertility god. To the Jews, Satan himself was deemed to be the spirit at work in Baal worship. Consequently *Beelzebul* became an alternate name for Satan, along with other names like: Azazel, Belial, Beliar, the

We must not expect to be loved and accepted by the leaders of man-made religion who rejected and crucified our Lord. The more you look like Jesus and tell others about His life-saving gospel, the more you should expect religious persecution.

Next, in **verses 18-20** Jesus warns us to,



Expect political persecution (18-20)

In **verse 18**, we should not be surprised if we are forcibly taken into the custody of governors and kings for the sake of our witness for Jesus. There are the governmental leaders or heads of state who may be politically motivated to oppose Christianity.¹⁶

Now again, let me repeat that Jesus commands us to be innocent as doves. Therefore we must not overplay the persecution card every time our government does something we don't agree with, or asks us to do

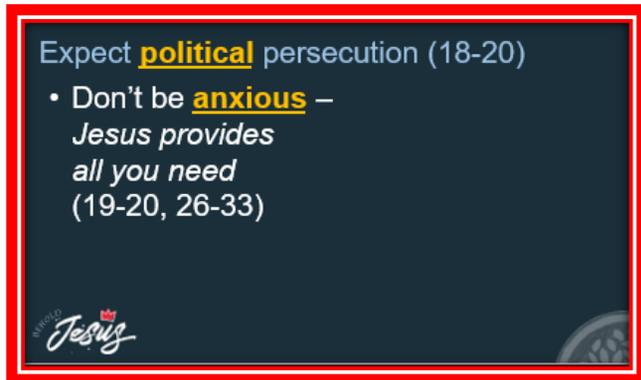
Dragon, Mastema, etc. c.f Grant Osborne's Exegetical Commentary on Matthew.

¹⁶ C.f. Acts 12:1-3 where Herod's persecution of the church was politically motivated. Also Nero's persecution of Christians around the time of 1 Peter was also politically motivated persecution of God's people.

something we'd prefer not to do.¹⁷ For example, our president and governor asking for our church's help to slow the spread of a deadly disease is not governmental persecution.¹⁸

Please underline the words "for my sake" in **verse 18**. These words are emphatic in the original. Jesus says we should expect to suffer unjustly at the hands of state authorities *for Jesus' sake*...because Jesus is our Shepherd, and because we look like Jesus, smell like Jesus, talk like Jesus, and walk like Jesus!¹⁹

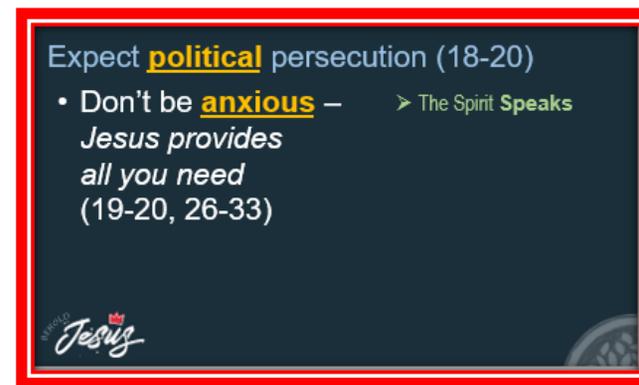
Yes, it is not safe to publicly associate with Jesus.²⁰ But in **verses 19-20 and 26-33**, Jesus commands us 4 times not to be anxious. Do not fear.



Don't be **anxious** when you are delivered over to the state authorities for living in Christ! **For Jesus provides all you need!**

There's at least 3 ways Jesus provides all we need during political persecution in these verses.

First, in **verses 19-20 and 26-27**,



The Spirit Speaks for us.

Notice **verse 19**,

When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you!

¹⁷ C.f. 1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-5

¹⁸ However, if local or state governments ever start to single out or target a particular church or command believers to disobey God, then this could in fact qualify as persecution. In such cases, God's people should cautiously and gently choose to serve God rather than man (Acts 5:29) while continuing to do good and entrusting their souls to our faithful Creator (1 Peter 4:19). To read an insightful blog post by Al Mohler as this relates to the COVID-19 pandemic, please see his 4/13/2020 blog post entitled,

"More than an Idle Threat" at <https://albertmohler.com/2020/04/13/more-than-an-idle-threat-real-assaults-on-religious-liberty-emerge-in-the-pandemic>.

¹⁹ In truth, true persecution is always against Jesus before it is against us. C.f. Jesus's words to Saul in Acts 9:1-5: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? ... I am Jesus whom you are persecuting."

²⁰ Galatians 6:17

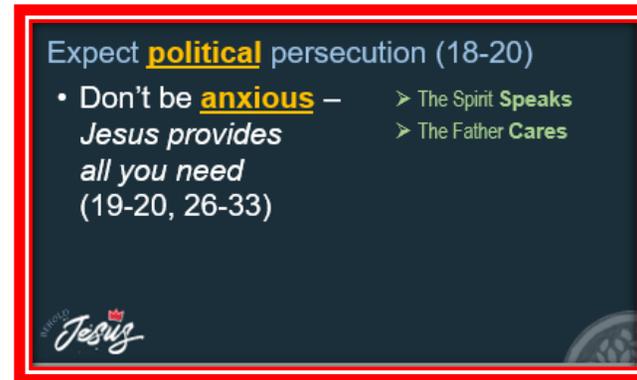
Don't worry lambs. Whenever you suffer for Jesus' sake, the Shepherd Himself will defend you. He will speak – every time you have an opportunity to publicly proclaim Jesus – *in that hour* – the Holy Spirit will take over and give you exactly what you need to say for Him.²¹

Verse 26 continues Jesus' argument,

*So have no fear of your persecutors, for the Spirit will bring to your mind the very Scriptures you have learned,*²² so that you may publicly make known to others what you have first learned from Jesus Himself.

You see **verse 26** refers to the private Gospel instructions that Jesus had with his disciples, but **verse 27** describes how the Helper – the Holy Spirit – will enable His “sent ones” to publicly proclaim Jesus' gospel in the most public way possible – even from the housetops if necessary! So don't be anxious... lend your mouth to the Spirit of the Living God so that all political persecution will only become a pulpit for the greater proclamation of His gospel!

Second, in **verses 28**, do not at any time fear what human authorities can do to you, since they cannot separate your soul from God's love.²³ Fear God instead! True eternal safety for your soul is only found in His care.²⁴ **Verses 29-31** make it astounding clear,



The Father Cares for you.

So whenever you are mistreated by authorities... remember God has not left you nor forgotten you.

Do you know how many birds are alive in this world today? I don't know! Likely hundreds of billions! Scientists estimate that almost 14 million birds die every day ... just in the United States alone!²⁵

Since **verse 29** says our Father actually consents to the death of every small bird,²⁶ and **verse 30** says our Father knows exactly how many hairs are on your head... certainly we can rest in His good care of us.²⁷ Our Heavenly Father knows and watches over every detail in our lives!! So don't be anxious when your union with Jesus causes you to suffer.

Third, **verses 32-33** help us understand that,

²¹ C.f. John 15:26-27

²² John 14:26; 16:13-15

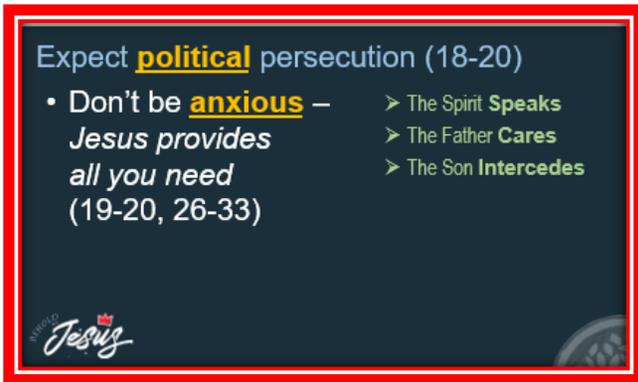
²³ Romans 8:35-39

²⁴ C.f. Acts 20:24

²⁵ <https://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/an-encouraging-statistic-about-death>

²⁶ C.f. Matthew 6:30

²⁷ C.f. 1 Peter 5:7



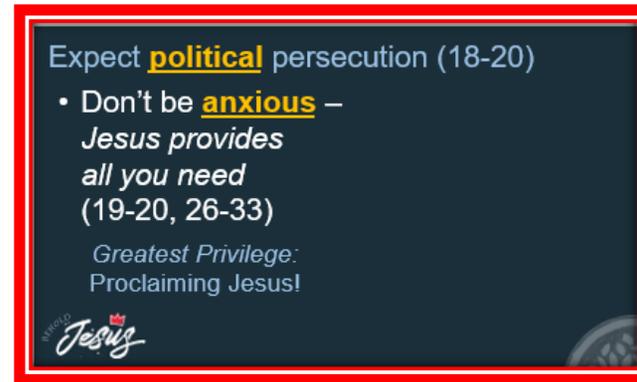
The Son Intercedes for us.

The future tenses in **verses 32-33** point towards judgment day, and here's the point: Jesus promises to publicly claim us as His own on judgment day as long as we're willing to publicly claim Him as our Lord here on earth.

This is a strong warning against caving and renouncing allegiance to Jesus when publicly persecuted. Jesus says – your eternal standing with God completely depends on your relationship with Jesus. So are you truly in Christ – so that your life is actually becoming more like Jesus and being treated more like Jesus was treated by this world?

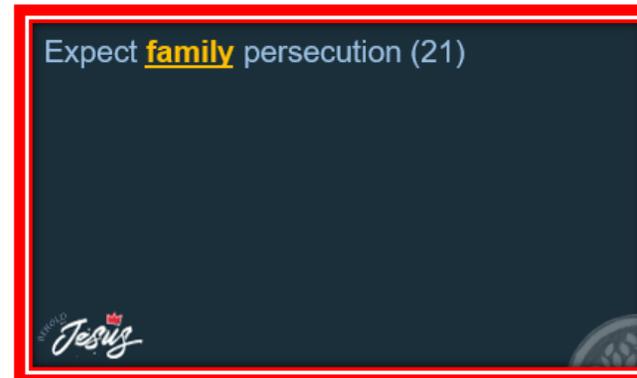
O what glory awaits us on judgment day, when Jesus will stand before the Father, and say that we are His!

Church, we must not be anxious about any political persecution we may suffer on earth.



It is our greatest privilege to Proclaim Jesus as His “sent ones” here, and Jesus provides all we need.

Next in **verse 21**, Jesus prepares us for,



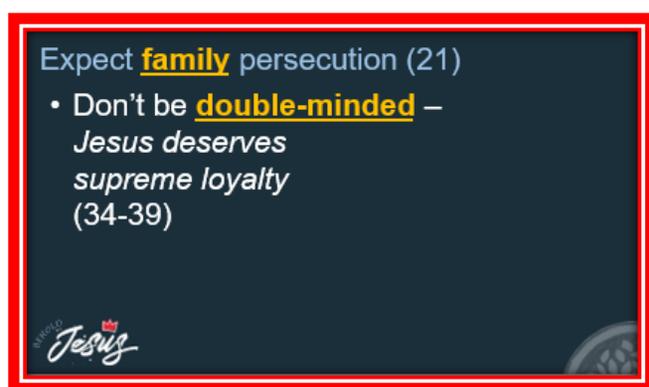
family persecution.

Here Jesus quotes from **Micah 7:6** as He reminds His disciples that both the love of heaven, and the hatred of hell, run thicker than blood.

The language of **verse 21** is startling. Family members not just disowning each other, but purposefully putting them to death because of allegiance to Jesus.

I remember watching a baptism testimony one Sunday evening in Los Angeles, as a young female college student from the Middle East quietly shared how her father and brother had tried to murder her simply for converting to Christianity. She will never be able to return to her home country, much less her family.

So Jesus urges all of us in **verses 34-39**,



Don't be **double-minded** in your loyalties. Jesus deserves the supreme loyalty of your life.

We must not misunderstand Jesus' purpose for coming to the earth. Yes, His kingdom offers peace with God to all who will submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and believe that His death and resurrection alone secures their eternal life with God!²⁸

But Jesus didn't come to earth to bring us earthly prosperity or safety or peaceful living. Anyone who teaches Jesus came to give the "King's kids" their best life now would do well to meditate upon **verses 34-39**.

Jesus didn't leave us a checkbook to purchase worldly comfort, but a cross to crucify worldly selfishness!

Verses 35 and 36 emphatically repeat the truth of **verse 21**. Jesus demands exclusive and supreme loyalty. There's no such thing as casual or cheap discipleship. He brings division – the text says a *sword* – to the strongest natural relationships...meaning at times your closest family members may become your greatest enemies simply because of your relationship with Jesus. Jesus demands supreme loyalty. This isn't just for special Christians like missionaries or radical Christians. This is what it means to be a Christian. Nothing means more than Jesus.

Now if Jesus is not first, then we have not yet died to our own life. And if we have not died to living for ourselves, we will constantly be two-timing on God – double-minded in our attempts to live for this world and live for Jesus.²⁹ But friendship with the world makes us God's enemy!³⁰

Look carefully at **verses 38 and 39**. "To take up your cross" means "to lose your life for Jesus' sake." The cross is an instrument of death.

My love for me and my own life must die... so that it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me!³¹ This is the joy of God's kingdom peace. True life is found by dying to self – being willing to deny myself, even to the point of physical death if necessary, all so that Jesus might have the first place in my life! Church – we no longer live for self-preservation, but for Christ-proclamation!

²⁸ Romans 5:1

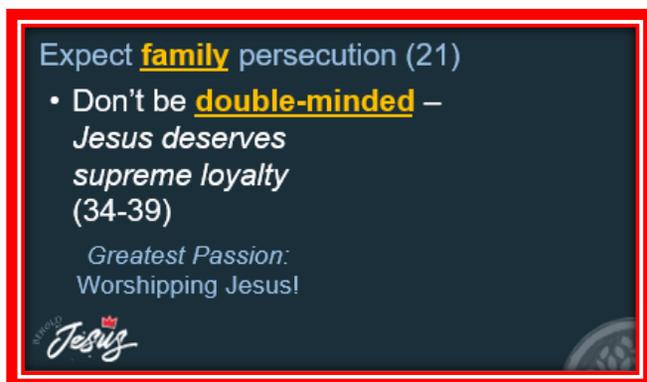
²⁹ James 1:7-8; 4:4-10

³⁰ James 4:4

³¹ Galatians 2:20

Do you believe this? That true freedom is found by losing your life in Christ?³² Have you repented of your sin, and publicly confessed your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord?³³ There is no such thing as a closet Christian. Saving faith is not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus,³⁴ no matter how much our public association with Jesus costs us.

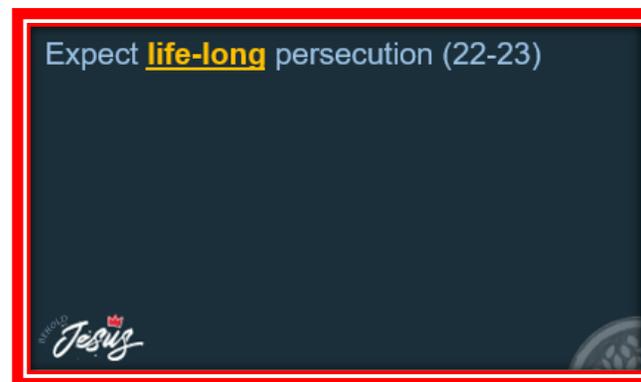
Loved ones, God created our lives to worship Him, and there is no greater freedom or joy that can be experienced on earth than fulfilling our created purpose!



Our greatest passion is Worshipping Jesus!

So even when you experience harmful betrayal you're your earthly family...remember that true life is only found in Christ alone! Believe on Him today. Follow Him to the cross...for you were made for another world than this one! In the words of Jim Elliot, "he is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose!"

So don't be surprised by religious persecution, and don't be anxious about political persecution, and don't become double-minded in family persecution, and finally, Jesus concludes His warnings about persecution by making sure His disciples,



Expect **life-long** persecution from society as a whole.

Verse 22 sums it up well:

And you will be hated by all for my name's sake.

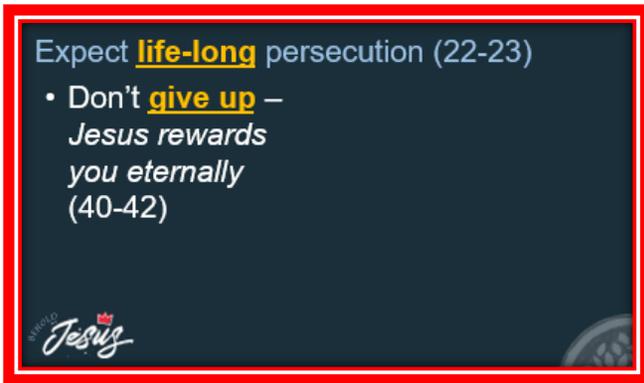
Just expect it: the more you become like Jesus, the more you will be universally hated by all unbelieving earth-dwellers, because of who you represent.

Jesus knows that He is not your safest earthly option. So after giving you all these warnings He looks you in the eye and says,

³² Galatians 5:1

³³ Romans 10:9-10

³⁴ Romans 1:16



Don't give up!

Verse 22, *The one who endures to the end will be saved!*

Jesus will reward you eternally! The Son of Man is coming back to make all things right. And the reward of your eternal salvation will make all your suffering worthwhile!

Jesus doesn't call us to seek out persecution, or intentionally bring it on ourselves. He sends us out like cautious serpents and harmless doves, remember?

So He makes it clear that we should flee and try to escape persecution whenever possible.³⁵ We are not obligated to stay in a place of danger until we are killed.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next He says in **verse 23**. In so doing, persecution actually becomes a catalyst for the spreading of God's gospel around the entire world.

³⁵ After all, this was Paul's pattern in Acts 12-14, 17. He was not afraid of persecution, for he was often beaten severely before he would leave a city. But whenever the persecution became so severe that he could no longer minister effectively, he did not try to test the limits of the opposition.

And when Jesus returns to this earth as the glorified Son of Man³⁶ to establish His millennial kingdom on the earth, you can rest assured that all your wicked persecutors will be judged, and all will be made right in the end.

So don't give up! There will always be more people – more towns to visit – more opportunities for your Gospel ministry all the way to the end.

And **verses 40-42** emphasize the assurance of our eternal reward. These verses are mind-blowing:

First **verse 40**: Whoever receives or accepts the gospel that you proclaim, will receive Jesus. And whoever receives Jesus as Lord has received the Father who sent Him. There is no such thing as believing in God the Father without believing in Christ the Son.³⁷

But now notice the amazing sharing of eternal blessing in God's economy. **Verse 41** speaks of a prophet and a righteous man. **Verse 42** speaks of little ones who are Jesus' disciples. This isn't speaking of children, but the simplest believers who seem insignificant or unimportant. These simple Christ-followers are the little ones.

And all three illustrations are making the same point. Whoever blesses and welcomes one of God's "sent ones" will share in their blessing. Because whenever you bless anyone serving in Jesus' Name, it amounts to you serving Jesus, and thus you will be rewarded by Jesus. The simplest help – just a refreshing drink of cool water –

Instead he would leave and go to another place.

³⁶ Daniel 7:13; Matthew 13:41; 16:27-28; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44; 25:31; 26:64

³⁷ John 8:19, 42

given to the simplest disciple will not go unnoticed and unrewarded by our Heavenly Father!

This is strong language – *he will by no means lose his reward!* Your reward is as secure as your oneness with Jesus Himself...for when you are sent out by Him, you will share in His eternal reward!!

So even though you may endure many different kinds of persecution from all kinds of people throughout your life – simply because you are living in Jesus’ name – don’t give up!

We will all truly share in Jesus’ reward together if we endure to the end!

Expect **life-long** persecution (22-23)

- Don't **give up** –
Jesus rewards you eternally
(40-42)

Greatest Promise:
Living with Jesus!

BEHOLD Jesus

Our greatest promise is Living forever with Jesus! All the sacrifices and suffering in this world will be worth it all, when we see Jesus and abide with Him forever!

So dear born-again child of God,

Main Point

Expect to be persecuted
when you become
like Jesus. (16)

BEHOLD Jesus

You must expect to be persecuted when you become like Jesus.

After all, we’ve been sent out by Jesus like sheep in the midst of wolves. So be smart and careful...and gentle and innocent... as you find true life in your oneness with Jesus Himself. Don’t be surprised to find that Christ-likeness is dangerous, but don’t be anxious, don’t be double-minded, and don’t give up. Rather rejoice that Jesus is your life! And being conformed to His image is enough for us!

BEHOLD Jesus

Matthew
10:16-42

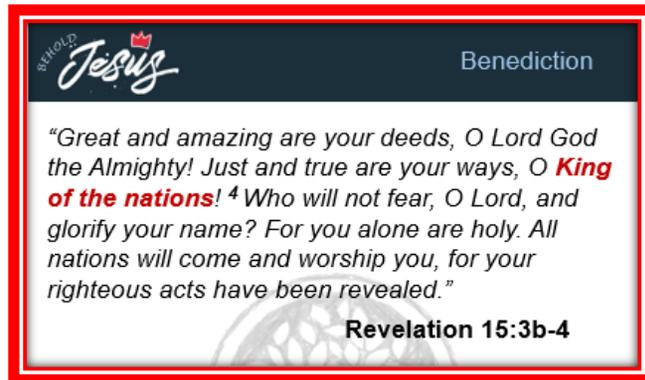
Jesus is
not Safe

Let’s pray.

<<All to Us>>

<<Remember to take advantage of the Sermon-Stretcher Downloads links>>

Let's pray our benediction together as we dismiss.



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.

Revelation 15:3b-4

Recommended Resources on Jesus is not Safe:

- Micah 7:6
- Matthew 5:10-12; 7:15; 21:43
- Luke 6:27; 12:2-9
- John 15:18-27; 16:33
- Acts 5:41-42; 14:22; 20:29
- Romans 8:36
- 1 Corinthians 4:10-13
- Galatians 2:20
- Colossians 4:5
- 1 Timothy 3:12
- James 4:13-15
- 1 Peter 2:21-24; 4:13

- <https://davidagundersen.com/2020/04/06/is-the-church-an-essential-service/>
- <https://www.vergenetwork.org/2014/04/11/safety-is-not-our-priority-david-platt/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/safety-is-a-myth>

- *Risk is Right*, John Piper
- *Overcoming Evil with Good*, Jay Adams
- *Follow Me*, David Platt

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Matthew 10:16. Jesus speaks of being like sheep, snakes, and doves. How does each of these metaphors help you understand how to be like Jesus in your most difficult ministry situations?
2. Compare Matthew 10:24-25 with 1 Peter 2:21ff. What aspects of Christ-likeness cause you the most fear and anxiety? What promises in God's Word encourage your faith and joy when you are being treated unjustly for being like Jesus? How do you draw strength from God's presence when you are suffering for righteousness' sake?
3. Read Matthew 5:10 and 2 Timothy 3:12. Share the last time you were mistreated because of living or speaking like Jesus. Do you allow the threat of suffering to hinder your pursuit of becoming more like Christ? Why or why not?
4. Read the link by David Gundersen above. Do you believe you personally are prone to overplay the "persecution" card when you suffer for any reason or in any way? Why or why not?
5. Review Matthew 10:28-33. How many birds die every day on the earth? How many individual human hairs exist on this planet? What do you find most encouraging and comforting from these promises?
6. Read Galatians 2:20. Why is the priority of safety so dangerous for Christ-followers? Should safety be a priority for Christians? Explain. How is Christ-likeness safe, and how is it not safe?