



I. Persecution and Promise for the Sent (Matthew 10:17–20)

II. Persecution Serves the Gospel Mission (Matthew 10:21-22)

- A. The gospel is inherently divisive and offensive (**Matthew 10: 21-22**)
 - 1. Families can become places of persecution (**Matthew 10:21**)
 - 2. All kinds of people will hate followers of Jesus (**Matthew 10:22a; John 15:18-20**)
- B. Two promises to inspire perseverance (**Matthew 10:22b-23**)
 - 1. Those who endure persecutions to the end will be saved (**Matthew 10:22b; Mark 13:3-13; Romans 2:10**)
 - 2. Jesus uses warnings of persecution and tribulation as a way to encourage faithfulness (**John 16:1-4, 33; 1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 12:11**)
 - 3. Jesus will certainly fulfill his climactic, redemptive work before the disciples go to every town. (**Matthew 10:23; Daniel 7:13-14**)
- C. When we are persecuted, we are sharing in Christ's sufferings (**Luke 24:46-49; 1 Peter 4:13; 5:6-11**)

Sermon Reflections

MATTHEW 10:17-23

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.

1. What kinds of persecutions awaited the disciples? How do these persecutions reflect the pattern of worldwide gospel ministry?
2. How can God use our persecution to bear faithful witness to Himself?
3. As you think about evangelism and mission, what anxieties do you experience? How does the promise of God dispel those anxieties? What role does preparation play when it comes to evangelism?
4. What about the gospel do you think unbelievers find most offensive? Why? What can you do to make sure it's the message that is offensive rather than you as the messenger?
5. Why does Jesus tell the disciples (and us!) about persecution ahead of time? How can that help us in gospel ministry?