

# Things Learned from the Persecuted

Matthew 5:43–45 || Pastor Matthew St. John || October 29, 2017

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## Discussion Questions

1. Share two ways that you are most like your parents.
2. Read Luke 23:26–43. What qualities emerge as you consider how Jesus endured the persecution of the cross?
3. Read Ephesians 4:32–5:2. How would a desire to be “imitators of God” shape our words, relationships, attitudes and actions toward those who oppose us? How has God been building Christ-likeness in your life in these areas? In what areas do you fall short of imitating Jesus? Confess this to God and one another and ask for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you.
4. Who are your enemies? Think along the lines of politics, theology, cultural values, sexual orientation, etc. What are some specific ways that you could love and pray for these image-bearers of God?
5. North Korea, Iraq, Eritrea, Pakistan and Syria are the countries where the worst persecution of Christians is taking place. Choose one of these countries and, as a group/family, pray for both the persecuted and the persecutors.

Message notes available at [newhopechurchmn.org/messages](http://newhopechurchmn.org/messages).

**November 5** *Ruth: Kindness*, Ruth 2:4–23, Pastor Matthew St. John