



PERSECUTED & REVEILED Matthew 5:10-11

CONNECT

Because of our love relationship to Jesus, the truth of this statement is so important: "We will not let our brothers and sisters suffer in silence, nor will we let them serve alone" ~Voice of the Martyrs

1. How do we grasp the persecution that brothers and sisters are experiencing in the body of Christ? What is our responsibility and accountability before God and to the body of Christ? What does the Bible say to us on this matter?
2. Read Luke 21:10-17, John 16:1-3, Romans 12:1, 1 Corinthians 12:12-18 & 25-26, 1 Peter 2:21-23 & 1 John 2:6. What do these verses teach about responding to the persecution, ridicule, rejection and retaliation we may experience because of faith in Jesus? Share a related experience you've had.

CELEBRATE

3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:24-25 & 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2. The Apostle Paul was certainly persecuted for his faith. What was his request to the church?
4. Do you think this would be Paul's request for us today as well? Share any tools that help you to pray for those in persecution. What stood out to you in Sunday's message? Why?

CONTRIBUTE

If we are to have a Christ-like response to persecution, we must allow the Bible to inform our thinking, our feelings and actions. ~Voice of the Martyrs.

5. Read Romans 12:9-14. How does this passage lead you to respond in light of brothers and sisters being persecuted?
6. Read Matthew 17:20. In his book, *The Necessity of Prayer*, EM Bounds says, "Prayer projects faith on God and God on the world. Only God can move mountains, but faith and prayer move God!" How would you describe your current faith and prayer life?
7. The choice to sacrifice everything for Jesus boils down to one very big question: Do I honestly believe Christ is alive, taking care of me today and waiting for me in heaven? ~Voice of the Martyrs. Discuss Luke 6:22-23, 18:29-30 & Matthew 10:39, 19:29 with your group.
8. Share what changes you need to make in your walk of faith to more fully live out Christ's calling.

Additional Resources

Many of us at New Hope Church have not experienced persecution for our faith, but we stand in the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to pray for persecuted brothers and sisters.

- I Commit to Pray
- Voice of the Martyrs
- I am N: Joy
- I am N: Perseverance
- I am N: Forgiveness