

Matthew 10:16-25

March 24, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro

Mat. 10:14 - "Whoever will not *receive you* nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet."

Open Doors Ministry: "*Christian persecution is any hostility, experienced from the world, because of one's identification with Jesus Christ.*"

- **v.14** - "*Whoever will not receive you.*"
 - **v.17** - "*Men will deliver you up to councils and whip you.*"
 - **v.21** - "*Brother will deliver up brother to death.*"
 - **v.22** - "*You'll be hated.*"
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1. Religious people will persecute Christians.

v.17 - Beware of men, for they'll deliver you up to councils and whip you in their *synagogues*.

Matthew 26:3-4 - Then the *chief priests* and the *elders* assembled in the courtyard of the *high priest*... and plotted together to arrest Jesus secretly and kill Him.

Paul - I was circumcised when I was eight days old, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a *Pharisee*. (**Phil. 3:5**)

Acts 22:4 - "I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison."

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Jesus: "The time is coming when those who kill you will think they're doing a holy service for God." (**John 16:2**)

2. Governments will persecute Christians.

v.18 - You will be brought before *governors* and *kings* for My sake.

3. Family members will persecute Christians.

v.21 - Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

4. Society in general will persecute Christians.

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v.22 - *"You will be hated by all for My name's sake."*

- In verse 22 Jesus talks about "the end"
- And in verse 23 Jesus talks about His Second Coming.
- Persecution against Christians will reach a crescendo in the Tribulation Period...
- Brother will betray brother and Christians will be hated by all

Charles Swindoll: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

1. Be wise

Colossians 4:5 - Be wise in the way you act toward those who aren't believers.

2. Be harmless as doves.

- We're supposed to be different and act differently

Peter - When they hurled insults at Him, He didn't retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.

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3. Beware

4. Be opportunistic.

Eric Mock: *“We often think of roadblocks, and they think of bridges. [They believe] difficulties in society, difficulties in legislation, are just platforms for proclaiming the grace of God at every opportunity.”*

5. Be trusting.

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6. Be open.

v.23 - "When they persecute you in this city, flee to another."

Acts 8 - There arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and the believers were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria... Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

7. Be prayerful.
