

Luke 21:10-19 (ESV)

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.”

Jesus did not promise us a life of comfort here on earth. In fact, He promised that persecution would come hard and fast as we follow Him. There is no institution on earth throughout all history that is a safe haven for believers. Government, associations, organizations, individuals, friends, and even family will turn on us as we follow Jesus. The Church family is the sanctuary where we find comfort and peace in the midst of persecution. He informs us of what we already know, that we are unable to stop the persecution or even find the right words to rebut it.

The promise that Jesus gives the believer is that the Holy Spirit is with us, inside of us. He will speak the truth in our hearts and minds of who God is and who we are in Him. As we speak the truth unashamed, no institution or person will be able to mount a defense against us. Their attack will be on God Almighty Himself. Where we cannot stand, He can and will.

FAMILY TABLE TALK QUESTION

What are ways that we experience persecution, and how does God work through us in them?

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray that God will display His glory to you and through you as you face trials of all kinds.
- Pray that the church will be a sanctuary for believers to unite in the truth of God’s power and love.
- Pray for those around the world who face direct persecution at the hands of government and extreme earthly attacks.