

Sunday, April 3 2022

A Life of Persecution (John 15:18-25; 16:1-4a)

The Point: Living like Jesus means being treated as He was.

The Bible Meets Life: Many questions related to the Christian life don't fall into life and death categories:

- What's your favorite version of the Bible?
- How can I be a better group member?
- If a church has a meal at the end of service, is that called a potluck or an afterglow?

Questions like these have lower stakes. However, other questions about our walk with Christ carry great weight:

- Am I prepared to suffer well?
- Am I ready to be hated for the sake of Jesus?

Suffering may not be a common topic of conversation in our lives, but suffering for the sake of Jesus—being persecuted because we follow Him—is something He told us to expect. In John 15 and 16, on the heels of Christ's command for us to love one another, the Lord warned us to prepare to suffer along with other believers. Jesus wanted to help us understand that living connected to Him means we will be mistreated like He was mistreated. But we can endure the hard times because He is with us and He is worth it.

Live It Out: Make a list. Write down some verses that speak of our hope in Jesus and the hope of heaven. Use these verses to encourage and prepare your heart not to stumble when you face persecution.

Listen. Tune in to an episode of the *Voice of the Martyrs* podcast this week and pray for the Christians who are being persecuted around the world. **Partner.** Join with your small group to identify a missionary serving in a place where Christians are persecuted and, as a group, support them prayerfully and perhaps financially. You can find help with this at imb.org.

Upcoming Sunday Sermon Series

Living Life Connected to Christ

Sunday, April 10 A Life of Victory
(John 16:19-22, 27-33)

Special Focus

Sunday, April 17 Jesus Lives—and You Can Too
(Matthew 28:1-10)

BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE

Opportunities for Ministry & Service

Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Indoor Worship

10:00 AM Online Worship

Wednesday

6:30 PM Youth

6:30 PM Online Worship

Thursday

Jail Ministry

Prayer Requests

Marlene Crider

Walter (Irene's brother-in-law)



Deacon's Meeting



TODAY
@ 2 PM
in the
sanctuary.

Service Attendance

Sunday, March 27

Indoor: 55 Online: 61

Wednesday, March 30

Online Reach: 62 Youth: 10

Easter Sunday

Easter is coming up on Sunday, April 17th. Pray for those who you are inviting to share in Easter worship! And, prepare your hearts for communion.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering



Our Goal: \$2,000

Received: \$100

Have You Seen These Items?

- 6-8 small blue chairs from the green preschool room.
- 2 white chairs from the FH.
- White dish towels from the kitchen.

If you are borrowing any of these items, please return them to the church OR let the church office know that you're still using them!



Monthly Budget & Offerings

Budget Needs:

\$18,566.08

March Offering

To Date: \$12,157.54

