

## **Week 8 ~ A Servant Is Not Greater Than His Master** (John 15:18—16:4)

### **18-21: You will be persecuted...**

<sup>18</sup> “Just remember, when the unbelieving world hates you, they first hated Me. <sup>19</sup> If you were to give your allegiance to the world, they would love and welcome you as one of their own. But because you won’t align yourself with the values of this world, they will hate you. I have chosen you and taken you out of the world to be Mine. <sup>20</sup> So remember what I taught you— that a servant isn’t superior to his Master. And because they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. And if they obey My teachings, they will also obey yours. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because you are Mine, and they don’t know the one who sent Me.

#### **- Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing right**

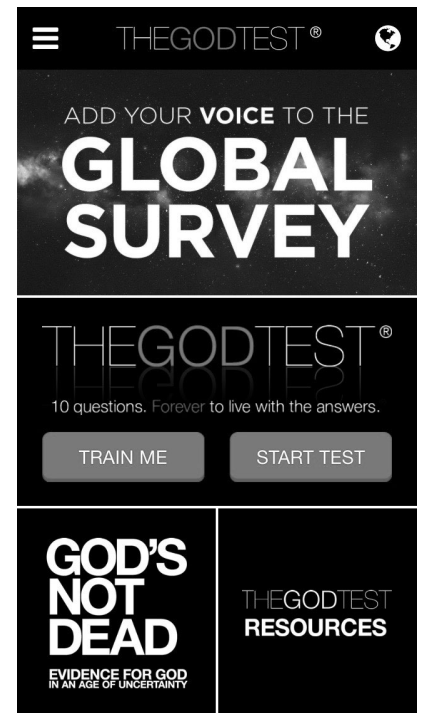
- <sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. <sup>11</sup> “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way. (Matt 5:10–12 NLT-SE)
- “...When people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.” All these assaults come from what people **say** about you, not what they **do** to you. They aren't saying these negative things because of what you are **doing**, but who you are **following**, and in **relationship** with.
- Jesus blesses any who will endure persecution for His sake with a **rejoicing spirit**. Persecution includes being penalized or harmed socially, verbally, financially, or physically. **Most persecution in the West is social, verbal, or financial, by being reviled, resisted, or ostracized.**
- Jesus warns His people to expect persecution and tells us how to respond to it (Jn. 15:18-25). Three **blessings** that come for enduring persecution with a rejoicing heart are as follows:
  - Persecution produces **perseverance** and **godly character** in us in this age (Rom. 5:3-5).
  - The **Spirit of glory** rests on those who are being persecuted (1 Pet. 4:14).
  - Great **eternal rewards** will be received in the age to come (Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18).
- **Persecuted for doing right:** We should test our own hearts when we are being resisted by others. Often, people are resisted for saying the truth with a wrong spirit or without wisdom. Others feel persecuted

when resisted for doing things that draw attention to themselves or that are foolish and extreme. There is a difference between being persecuted for Jesus or as a result of us walking in our flesh.

## 22-27: The Truth Will Be Preached...

<sup>22</sup> “If I had not come and revealed Myself to the unbelieving world, they would not feel the guilt of their sin, but now their sin is left uncovered. <sup>23</sup> If anyone hates Me, they hate My Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not performed miracles in their presence like no one else has done, they would not feel the guilt of their sin. But now, they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. <sup>25</sup> And all of this has happened to fulfill what is written in their Scriptures: <sup>26</sup> “ And I will send you the Divine Encourager from the very presence of My Father. He will come to you, the Spirit of Truth emanating from the Father, and He will speak to you about Me. <sup>27</sup> And you will tell everyone the truth about Me, for you have walked with Me from the beginning.

- **They would not feel the guilt of their sin** (lit., “their sin is left uncovered.”)...
  - “If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see. (John 9:41 NLT-SE)
  - Jesus did two things that caused people to “feel the guilt of their sin:”
    - He **revealed Himself** as the Son of God.
    - The miracles He performed **revealed the Power of God**.
- **They have seen and hated both Me and My Father...** Those who were rejecting Jesus (and His Father), had really **never** known Him. They had imagined the kind of God they wanted and expected their imagined god would come and rescue them. ***They didn’t realize that in rejecting Jesus as God’s Son, they were rejecting God.***
  - <sup>2</sup> The time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. <sup>3</sup> This is because they have never known the Father or me. (John 16:2–3 NLT-SE)
  - Jesus made it clear that they could not choose one (Jesus or the Father) without the other. Jesus was the manifestation of the God of their Fathers, but when they saw Him, they hated Him. They thought they could reject Jesus and still serve God. ***In reality they were serving Satan!***
    - <sup>44</sup> You are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 NLT-SE)
  - Their hatred for Jesus was irrational, much like ***the hatred David’s enemies*** had for him (Pss. 35:19; 69:4; 109:3).
- **You will tell everyone the truth about Me...** What does all this have to do with preaching the truth? The light had come. ***When the light comes, what is illuminated is the truth.*** The work of Jesus was testify of the Father. The work of the Holy Spirit is to testify of Jesus. His testimony is true because He is the Spirit of Truth (16:13). As the Counselor (a legal representative), He presents God’s truth to the world (14:26, 16:7). The Spirit is sent from



The God Test, a new evangelistic app developed by Pastor Rice Brooks.

the Father, just like the Son was sent from the Father. ***All this is not done in isolation from, but in cooperation with the Church.*** As the apostles witnessed, the Holy Spirit persuaded, and people were saved!

- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NLT-SE)

#### 1-4: I Will Keep You From Falling Away...

John 16:1 “I have told you this so that you would not surrender to confusion or doubt.<sup>2</sup> For you will be excommunicated from the synagogues, and a time is coming when you will be put to death by misguided ones who will presume to be doing God a great service by putting you to death.<sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they don’t know anything about the Father or Me.<sup>4</sup> I’m telling you this now so that when their time comes, you will remember that I foretold it. I didn’t tell you this in the beginning because I was still with you.

- **“I will keep you from...”** Surrendering to confusion and doubt (PAS), Falling away (ESV, NET), Going astray (NIV), Stumbling (NASB, NKJV), Abandoning your faith (NLT), Being offended (AMP).
- **David Sliker:** Four Signs of the Times, from “The Peril of Humanism and Narcissism in the End Times,” March 18, 2016.
  - **Israel...**(now) The return of Israel to the global scene as a sign of what God is doing on the earth.
  - **Humanism...**(now) as a sign of man’s reaction to God. Secular Humanism (Do I find life in and through God, or apart from God?), Post-Modernism, and Narcissism.
  - **The Great Falling Away from the Faith...**(future)
  - **The Rise of the Antichrist...**(future)
- **Why will believers reject Jesus during the end-time “falling away”?** The bottom line: “Believers” are offended by His leadership.
  - <sup>1</sup> Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. <sup>2</sup> Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. <sup>3</sup> Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. (2 Th 1:12–1:3 NLT-SE)
  - <sup>11</sup> So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. <sup>12</sup> Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth. (2 Th 2:11–12 NLT-SE)
  - Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 that people are condemned because
    - (1) they do not love the **truth**
    - (2) they take pleasure in **unrighteousness**.



David Sliker, IHOPKC Staff

- Paul explains to Timothy that those who “turn away from the true faith...will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.” (1 Tim 4:1 NLT-SE) A few years later, Paul adds that, “they will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.” (2 Tim. 4:3-4 NLT-SE).
- Paul describes the state of the world during this time when believers are ***susceptible to rejecting Jesus’ leadership*** in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. At that time, the central cultural issue is that they are **lovers of themselves**, although Paul goes into much greater depth, saying that “people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.” ***Sound familiar?***
- **The victorious, overcoming believer** in Revelation 12:11 will overcome Satan ***by the blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony, and the fact that they did not love their lives to the death***. Going back to John 16:1-4, it becomes clear that Jesus is revealing an important key to not being offended and overcoming:

### ~ Truth, Testimony, and Trust ~

- <sup>1</sup> “I have told you these things **so that you won’t abandon your faith**. <sup>2</sup> For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. <sup>3</sup> **This is because they have never known the Father** or me. <sup>4</sup> Yes, I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn’t tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer. (John 16:1–4 NLT-SE)