

15 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 32



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you were persecuted for your faith in Jesus Christ and how the Holy Spirit helped you to not give up believing and serving Jesus?
2. Why would the world hate Christians according to Jesus in v.19? **(Jesus said; "because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world...")**.
3. Why would Christians be persecuted according to v.20? **(Jesus said; "if they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.")**.
4. What is the Old Testament scripture for the fulfilment of v.25? **(Psalm 69:4.)**.



Let's go deeper

5. Who will help believers according to v.26? **(The Helper – The Holy Spirit.)**.
6. What does v.26, tell us about the Holy Spirit? **(Jesus said; "He is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.")**.
7. Why did Jesus tell all of this to His disciples according to John 16:1? **(These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.)**.
8. Can you name a New Testament person who killed a Christian, and thought he offered God a service? **(Saul of Tarsus; see Acts 8:1 – 3; 22:3 – 5; 26:9 – 11)**.
9. Why did Jesus tell His disciples about persecution according to John 16:4? **(That when the time comes, they will remember what He told them.)**



Let's apply this

**10. John 16:26;** Jesus said; "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

Jesus knew the disciples would need the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to face the opposition the world would bring. Everything the Holy Spirit does is consistent with the testimony and the nature of Jesus Christ.

- How has the Holy Spirit helped you in times of persecution?
- How has the Holy Spirit helped you to not fall away from your faith?
- How can you pray for persecuted Christians this week?

SUMMARY:

**Gospel of John:** Week 32 (Jesus teach about Holy Spirit).

**Read:** John 15:18 – 16:4.

**v.18 – 20;** Jesus told the disciples that the world would often hate them. As wonderful as Jesus was and His message was, they should expect to be rejected when Jesus departed, just as much as they were often opposed while Jesus was with them. When Jesus spoke to Saul of Tarsus on the Road to Damascus, He asked Saul: Why do you persecute Me? (See Acts 9:4) "The Lord who was personally persecuted on earth continued to be persecuted, even in His exultation, in the person of His persecuted followers."

Why does the world hate Christians according to **v.19;** Jesus said, "because you do not belong to the world." Jesus said this both as a fact and an explanation. This was also to be a description of the disciples – that in many ways they were different than the world, and a guarantee that they have been chosen by Christ.

**v.20 – 25;** Jesus reminds us that they will treat us the same way as they treated Him. Yes, some people will come to faith and have their lives transformed, but others will hate and persecute believers. Jesus is trying to prepare His disciples then and now to not be surprised when we see persecution. Rather we will remember that He told us it would be this way, so we will not be tempted to fall away.

**v.26 – 27;** Jesus knew the disciples would need the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to face the opposition the world would bring. Everything the Holy Spirit does is consistent with the testimony of the nature of Jesus. His job is to tell us, and to show us, who Jesus is. The disciples were not left in the world merely to endure the world's hatred. Empowered by the Helper and His testimony about Jesus, they will bear witness of who Jesus is and what He did to rescue the world.

v.26, Teaches us several things about the Holy Spirit:

- Jesus will send Him from the Father.
- He is called the "Spirit of truth" (see also John 14:17 and 16:13).
- He is spoken of as a Person in John 14:26; 15:16, 26.
- He will testify or witness concerning Jesus.

**John 16:1 – 4;** Jesus warned His disciples of coming opposition because He did not want them to be surprised and stumble by it. Saul of Tarsus was one who thought he offers God a service by killing Christians (see Acts 8:1 – 3; 22:3 – 5; 26:9 – 11).

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century most, Christian martyrs were victims of the atheistic, communist state. Through most of history, most Christian martyrs were targets of those from other religions – see **Open Doors World Watch List** for more information.