

A photograph of a vast field of golden wheat, with the stalks blowing in the wind. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

Joining Christ in Mission

Expecting Persecution

Matthew 10:16-25

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:16-25

¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:16-25

²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Expecting Persecution

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out **as sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Jesus promises the apostles that they will be delivered over, flogged, dragged before governors, face death, betrayed by family, be hated, persecuted and maligned.

Expecting Persecution

¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings
for my sake

²² and you will be hated by all **for my name's sake.**

You will be persecuted because you follow Christ.

Expecting Persecution – CAUTION

Remember to have compassion.

Mat 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Remember to love. (1 Cor 13)

Remember it is the Holy Spirit's job to bring conviction.
(John 16:8, 3:17)

Called to Endure

Matthew 10:22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

An Opportunity to Bear Witness

Matthew 10:18–20 ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

An Opportunity to Pursue Christ

Philippians 3:8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. **For his sake I have suffered** the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may **share his sufferings**, becoming like him in his death,