



“Lessons to Learn: This May Hurt...”

Sunday, September 11, 2016

**Lesson:**

*Persecution is a word we try to avoid, but the Bible tells us that if we follow God’s path, we are certain to face persecution. What does this mean for us? Why do we have to face it?*

**ICEBREAKER:**

In remembrance of the tragedy of September 11, take a moment and share with each other your memories of the day.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Look over the Beatitudes that Jesus shares in Matthew 5:3-12. How does the one we discussed today differ from all the other ones?
2. Read John 15:18. Why do you think Jesus said the world hated him? Do you think the world still hates him today? Why or why not?
3. Read over I Peter 4:12-19.
  - a. What trials have you suffered as a Christian?
  - b. Verse 16 says if you suffer, do not be ashamed, but praise God you bear that name. Why

- would one be ashamed to suffer trials for Jesus?
4. Matthew 5:11 tells us there will be 3 different types of persecution - verbal, physical, and false things said.
    - a. Describe the 3 types of persecution we face as Christians.
    - b. Do you think Americans still face physical persecution in our country before your time on earth is over?
  5. This morning, we discussed two ways to respond to persecution - carnally or spiritually.
    - a. Carnally can be with Retaliation or Resentment. Why should we not respond in these ways? (Romans 12:14, 17-19)
    - b. To respond spiritually confirms our relationship with Jesus and causes reliance on Him (Matthew 5:12; 2 Corinthians 12:10). How do we respond spiritually, and how does it strengthen our relationship with Jesus?