



THE MIGHTY WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life and/or the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

Though followers of Jesus will experience opposition in the world, Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Truth—will bear witness along with us. But, contrary to how we often view it, we are secondary participants in the primary work of witnessing that the Holy Spirit is already doing. That is a freeing and empowering truth!

READ THE TEXT: John 15.18-27

¹⁸"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

²⁶"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the text and Sunday's sermon?
2. While persecution for faith in Christ is certainly more severe in other parts of the world, how have you observed hate or persecution locally? Have you experienced hate or persecution for your faith in Jesus Christ? If so, how?
3. The original word for *world* in the text is *cosmos*, referring to human society organizing itself without God. What are some ways in which Jesus and the gospel He and His followers proclaim contrary to the thinking, values, and ways of the world?
4. Read Romans 8:18 and Philippians 3:8 and then discuss the ways in which the favour of the world cannot compare with the favour of Jesus toward His disciples.
5. The Holy Spirit bears witness about Jesus. Jesus is the great preoccupation of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is already going about the work making Jesus known. In what ways is that a relief? In what ways does that give you confidence?

CONCLUSION

Suffering for the sake of Christ will inevitably take place in your life at some point—if not on a regular basis—and to a greater degree in the future. But there is hope for the world rejecting Christ, the *Helper*, the *Holy Spirit*, is bearing witness about Jesus and as we join Him in it, we will find all we need in Christ and so will those He is drawing to Himself.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of what this text has impressed upon you.
- Invite God to grow in the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and Gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 1 Peter 4:11; et al.) in you for the same great purposes that the Holy Spirit was sent: to point to Jesus. What specific *Fruit* and *Gifts* are you seeking to grow in and receive?
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

