

With the Master in the Upper Room—Questions to Consider—Lesson 17-John 16:1-4—  
Warning! Persecution is Coming!

1) (a) Read John 16:1-6. How many times are “these things” (KJV) mentioned, and what did Jesus mean by each one? (b) What does the future hold for the disciples, according to these verses? (c) What encouragement does Christ give them in these verses? (d) Write down some of the ways in which Christ’s words to the disciples were fulfilled in the book of Acts.

2) Memorize John 16:2.

3) (a) Read Matthew 10 and note the kinds of persecution the Lord predicts for His disciples. (b) How would Matthew 10 also be an encouragement to the disciples?

4) Read Acts 6:8-7:60. (a) Who was the first martyr? (b) What did he say that caused him to be hated and eventually killed? (c) How does his sermon compare to many modern-day sermons?

5) Read Acts 12. (a) Who else was martyred for his faith? (b) Who was behind this wicked act? (c) How did the Jews react? (d) Whom did Herod then want to kill? (e) What happened to Peter and what happened to Herod?

6) (a) Who wanted to kill Paul in Acts 23:12? (b) Read on through verses 13- 35. How did the Lord providentially rescue Paul? (c) Why do you think the Lord rescued Peter and Paul yet allowed Stephen to be martyred? (d) What do these passages teach you about the providence of God in your own life?

7) (a) Are you willing to suffer persecution for Christ? At work? In your neighborhood? With you family? In your church? (b) If the time ever comes for you to die for your faith, what do you think you will do? (c) What comfort will you find in the Word?

8) (a) In looking at John 16:1-4 we see the love of Christ in warning His beloved children of the things that were going to happen to them. If Jesus so loved them and us to forewarn us as His children about coming persecution, should we instruct our children in these truths? (b) How would you explain to your child or to a new believer about what Christ has said concerning persecution for His sake?

9) Come with a prayer request for either yourself, if you are going through persecution, or for someone you know who is suffering because of Christ’s sake.