



March 29th, 2026

*True Disciples Will Bear Witness
While Facing Hatred*

John 15:18-6:4

1. An estimated 340 million Christians around the world (that's about 1 in 7 Christians) face intense pressure and persecution. Take time to pray for persecuted believers around the world. **Hebrews 13:3** — **3** *Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.*

2. How does the David Wells's definition of the world (organized around self) help explain modern culture?

The "world" is the way in which our collective life in society (and the culture that goes with it) is organized around the self in substitution for God. It is life characterized by self-righteousness, self-centeredness, self-satisfaction, self-aggrandizement, and self-promotion, with a corresponding distaste for the self-denial proper to union with Christ. ~ David Wells, "God in the Wasteland"

3. Out of the three reasons given for why the world hates Jesus, which do you think is the most potent in our culture today?
 - (a) Jesus exposes humanity's willful ignorance of God.
 - (b) He exposes humanity's guilt and shame.
 - (c) His powerful works demonstrates His authority over everything.
4. How should the reality of hatred and persecution shape our expectations of the Christian life? In what ways can we help one another remain faithful under social or cultural pressure?

5. Why is responding with “bearing witness” (not withdrawal or aggression) so central to Jesus’ instructions to His disciples?

6. In what ways are you tempted to soften or stay silent about truth to avoid conflict? Which of the sermon’s examples (family rejection, job pressure, cultural tension) feels most relatable to you?