



## Lesson 136 – Mark 13:9-13

**But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. And the gospel must first be published among all nations. But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

1. Here the Lord Jesus turns to more personal comments as to what His followers can expect in the years ahead. He doesn't want them to be surprised when they meet opposition. His love for them leads Him to prepare them for what would come. He does the same for us through His Word and Holy Spirit. Jesus warns them to take heed to themselves and tells of their future. What specific things does He tell them? Few of us are called to such great persecution, but if He told you these things about your future, would you stay the course or run away?
2. What conclusion about the cost of discipleship can you make from these verses?
3. Who is behind all persecution of Christians?
4. Jesus said that His disciples would experience difficult times "for His sake." What did He mean? What other things are to be done for His sake? (Mt 5:10-11, 10:39, 19:22, Lk 6:22-23, Phil 1:29, Rev 2:2-3)
5. This passage and the verses to come in Mark 13 are describing the times the early disciples would experience, the persecution through nearly 2000 years that some believers would encounter, and lastly, the days of the seven years of tribulation that new followers of Christ, particularly those in Israel, would face before the coming of the Lord Jesus to reign as King over all the Earth. What could they expect?
6. In verse 11, it says the disciples would not need to premeditate on what they would say in their testimony, the Holy Spirit would give the words and speak through them. Read John 15:26-27. Will the Holy Spirit do that for us today?
7. What first does verse 10 say must happen before the tribulation begins?
8. What is a most important quality for every believer to have?

### Possible answers

1. Persecution will come. The disciples will come before governmental and religious leadership. The religious leaders and rulers will do everything they can, as tools of Satan, to stop the spread of the gospel, but they will not be successful. The plan of redemption and the good news of the

Savior will continue and spread among all nations. The world seems to fall into two categories: those who spread the gospel and those who try to suppress it. What are you actively doing to see that the gospel is reaching your area and the nations?

2. It cost many of the early Christians their lives, and still today Christians are being beaten and killed for Christ's sake and because His name is hated by the wicked, but faithfulness to the Lord will be rewarded. Be valiant for it is well worth the cost. You will be able to rejoice for eternity that you were faithful in this phase of your life, whatever it entails.

3. The devil hates the Lord Jesus and His followers, and will do anything he can to lead them away from Jesus. He incites people, sometimes even other Christians, to persecute those who are living for the Lord and doing God's will.

4. Jesus suffered on the cross that we might be free from sin, and death, and many other things, including sickness and fear, so if His followers suffer "for His sake," we join Him in helping to free others still under the enemy's rule. Secondly, it is a privilege to serve our King and be allowed to do anything "for His sake." We are under the protection of the Lord, but if He asks us to suffer "for His sake," it will be an evidence of our love for Him, and be to our great benefit and reward. Think how glad we will be in heaven, because we were faithful here. Read 1 Peter 4:13-19 for more instruction. In fact, the whole book of 1 Peter has much in it on godly attitudes and actions, if one is suffering as a Christian.

5. Being delivered for punishment for being a believer, beatings, even death (v 12) for some.

6. Yes. The Holy Spirit of God will supply words for us to speak, as we rely on Him, because He wants us to do His will. Jesus said in John 12:49-50, "... I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak."

7. The gospel must be published among all nations. God's will to have the gospel go around the world will and just about has been accomplished. Thinking of television and radio, even the internet, it is now possible for all nations to receive the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ. (Mt 24:14) So we can be assured, the coming of Jesus as King over the Earth where He will rule one thousand years will take place in this century and probably much sooner than later.

8. Endurance or faithfulness. Those who accompany the faithful Warrior-king, as He comes back to take over the Earth, are "called, chosen, and faithful." (Rev 17:14) The first two, called and chosen, are what God does; faithful is your response to the call and choosing. The first two are grace; faithfulness is your response and appreciation of that grace. All three are a product of love.

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