

# The Promise of Persecution

## MATTHEW 24:9-14

Perseverance is more than endurance. It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty that what we are looking for is going to happen.

-Oswald Chambers

### I. The Coming Trouble

## II. The Comfort of Truth

### **Application:**

1. This is the second time in Matthew's gospel that Jesus told his disciples that they would face persecution. What is the reason that followers of Christ from every age should expect hostility from the world? Matthew 10:24-25, 34-39. What is NOT a good reason to suffer? 1 Peter 3:13-17, 1 Peter 4:14-16.

2. As Jesus' disciples wait for him to come again, they can anticipate trials and struggles of kinds. How should God's people view the struggles that they face? James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:3-9, 1 Peter 4:12-19.

3. What is your typical response to suffering? Knowing that God is sovereign over our trials, and even uses them for our eternal good, what should our response be? How can we train ourselves to respond rightly rather than according to our flesh?

4. Is there a particular struggle in your life right now that you can see God working in? Is there a time when you have been able to see God prove himself faithful in difficult circumstances in the past? Are you willing to share these with the group as an encouragement to others who might be struggling?

5. Is there a particular struggle in your life right now where you are really struggling to see God's plan and purpose? If you are willing, a small group setting is a great place to ask for prayer, and to allow others to help bear your burden and remind you of what it true.

**For Families:**

6. Take some time to talk with your kids about a difficult or painful circumstance in your life. Whether it's current or something in the past, use the passages above to show them how God used even hard things to accomplish his good for us. Encourage them to talk about difficult things that they might be facing, and spend time as a family praying that they would respond rightly, and that God would give them strength and encouragement.