

calculated ahead of time and when it comes it is only a passing darkness. So these difficulties anticipated will not bewilder but they will give confidence because of our guide. We know that he is telling us the truth, that the water at Marah may be bitter but also like Israel, on tomorrow they camped at Elin where there were twelve wells and seventy palm trees. They followed the right course because it led to the land flowing with milk and honey. Now Jesus is saying the same thing to his disciples, "If it were not so I would have told you." So when their hour is come it will be brief and they will be prepared to meet such an hour. *Get you Ready for the soul trials*

## II. Reasons Why They Suffer, verse 2

In this verse he gives them the reason for their suffering and the way in which they are to suffer. This is a dark prospect which he holds out to his disciples. You remember back in chapter 15 he told them that the world would hate them and it seems that if the world hated them the religious organizations of that day would have been for them, but now he comes to give the reasons why they will suffer even at the hands of the organized body of religion. The group that called themselves the church of

## SOME GOOD REASONS

John 16:1-6

Christ dealt faithfully with his disciples when he sent them forth for he told them what they might expect. Therefore, Jesus encouraged them to sit down and count the cost. We have here an unbroken flow of thought coming from chapter 15 in which we have discovered Jesus talking about the Comforter and later on in this chapter he will add, to what he has already said. We will notice that in the short space for consideration tonight, that Jesus four times repeats the expression, "These things have I spoken unto you." Therefore, he is not so much as adding anything new to his words, but he is rather now ready to give many reasons for the things which he has spoken. This is sort of a pause or resting place where Jesus invites his disciples to meditate upon the account which he has covered.

## I. The Reason Given For This Alarm, verse 1

He tells them here that they might know just why they should expect trouble. But most of all he is telling them in order that they might not be offended or scandalized at the cross. This is a danger that even good men might turn back from the ways of God and turn aside from them. Therefore

lose their integrity and miss the comfort offered. And by giving notice of this trouble it should take the terror out of it that it might not come by surprise and that they might not become disorganized.

*Blocks that trip one up*

He says, I am saying this in order that you might not be offended or stumble. He is warning them of a storm before it arrives. A modest man might naturally say, perhaps I am wrong and they are right. A coward would be sure to say, I will destroy my convictions and follow in with the majority and so there was to come an opportunity to stumble for we know that if Christian people try to live like Christ and do as he would have them to do, that they shall often stand with a minority. They will be surrounded by people who will take an entirely opposite view of duty and truth.

There are also all the cares and griefs which will befall them and he is telling them in order that they might not stumble, because when the hour comes and the sorrow comes, they might remember that Christ has spoken of this before.

We should observe here that Jesus does not enlist recruits with rosy pictures of the blessings and joys of serving him. If you take my yoke upon you you will have a heavy burden. You will abstain from a great many things that you would like to do. You will also have to do a great many things that your flesh will not like. The road is rough and a high wall is on either side. There are lovely flowers and green pastures on the other side of the wall, and it seems that it would be easier to walk through that enticing pasture, but Jesus said, the roadway is narrow and the gate is very straight, but the path always leads upward.

Now it is far better that he should tell them about these dangers rather than trying to get them to dwell in luxury and ease. Jesus does not give a false pretence but he says, if you will serve me you must make up your minds to hardships. And he went on to tell them how many of these hardships would come. Thus they would be able to meet them, for being forewarned is to be fore-armed. I read somewhere where the savages think when a eclipse comes that the wolfe has swallowed the sun and it will never come back again. But we know that all of this has been

have confidence in his ability to shield them from harm and they would feel they were amply protected. As long as he was there they felt no harm could come to them. But the fact that he was going away from them demanded that he speak more plainly. So he had given them no general terms. It would have been of little use for Jesus to have talked to them during the early days of his ministry in this way. Therefore, what he is speaking to them, he wants them to make us of. And as they experience these things it is to become vital to them. They tell us that the old Greeks used to send messages from one army to another by means of a roll of parchment twisted spirally around a baton and then written upon. It was not readable if it fell into a man's hands that had not a corresponding baton to twist it upon. Many of Christ's messages to us are like that. You can only understand these truths when they are experienced in your life. This was a gradual unfolding of what is to come to us and how often do we hear people say, "If I had known all of this beforehand, I do not think I could have lived to face it!" Do we not feel that it was loving kindness that Jesus concealed these things and that while he was with them they were able to face these battles in life and now that he is getting ready to leave them, they will not be bewildered, for he has promised them already

God are to become real enemies of Christ's people. We know that a formal church is the true world always and today as then. And such a group will do the cruelest things and believe that they are offering up sacrifices unto God, for we read in history where they would tie a man to the stake and set him afire, feeling that they were performing something for God. They called that an act of faith. He tells them in this verse particularly what they should suffer. There seems to be two swords drawn against the followers of Christ.

The sword of the church. This is drawn against them by the Jews. They shall be cast out of their synagogues. That is, they shall cast you out of the particular synagogue you are a member of. At first they scourged them in their synagogues as breaking the law. Matthew 10:17.

They shall also cast you out of the congregation of Israel in general. That is, they will take away from you the privileges of the nation and you will become an outlaw. They will look upon you as a Samaritan or as a heathen man, as a Publican.

*4/communicate Today Jew turns to X he is  
Pnt out - Catholic turns to X - Protestant*

The second sword is that of civil power. The time and hour will come that is likely to be worse than just being put out of the synagogue for heresy, they will kill you and think that they are doing God a service. You will find them cruel. As Christ's sheep you have been counted for the slaughter.

You will find them seemingly conscientious. They will think they do God a service. It is possible for those that are real enemies to God's service to pretend a mighty zeal for it. The devil's work many times has been done in God's name. They say they are doing it out of duty to God and service to his church. God's people have suffered many great hardships from conscientious persecutors. Paul verily thought that he ought to do what he did against the name of Jesus. Of course this does not lessen the sin of the persecutors. So these are the reason why, and through what means suffering will come.

### III. The Real Reason For Persecution, verse 3

He gives them the true reason of the world's hostility. It will not be because you have done them harm but it will be because of their ignorance. They may pretend

to know God but they are ignorant of him. Those that pretend to do him a service thought they knew him. Those that are ignorant of Christ cannot have any right knowledge of God. Jesus has proved this by telling them that he is the true revelation of the Father.

They are ignorant indeed who think it is acceptable service to persecute good people and those that really know Christ know that he did not come into the world to destroy but he came into the world to save sinners. So the motive of their persecutors perhaps was conscientious and thought they were doing God a service, but we know that God is a revealer of hearts and that this was merely spiritual ignorance and they have not know the Father nor me, Jesus says.

### IV. Reason He Had Not Told Them Sooner, verse 4

He had a reason in mind for not telling these people earlier in his ministry about these things, but he had hinted and he had given many references to the persecutions and trials which were to come. But he reserved this until the last possible moment and the reason he had not given this before was because he was there with them. They would

that there would be a cross. But he paid the price. There are people today who are doing well according to the world. But they do not know the peace of God. There are those who, on the Lord's Day, never visit the house of God, but are found in a comfortable easy chair with folded hands unconcerned. We find challenge in life when we come to grips with pain and in following Christ. Who would not like to be the man who lives in the house by the side of the road, where he can assist those who need help. We must remember what God said. "Can two walk together unless they are agreed." So Jesus has gradually unfolded to them that they must suffer hardships. He has already set the example. He stayed up late at night talking with Nicodemus. He went without food one day to talk to the woman of Samaria. He was willing to take time to offer pardon and spiritual help to those in need. We must be where Christ would have us be. There is happiness in concern. There is happiness in doing his will. We must know that he went to the cross and suffered for us and that we as Christians will also face suffering and hardships. I read of the prayermeeting of a group of elders who went to pray for a young mother who had been taken out of a iron lung. They gathered and laid on hands and prayed soul searching and earnest prayers

another Comforter.

#### V. Reason of Their Sorrow, verse 5-6

Jesus here expresses affectionate concern for the sadness and sorrow of the disciples. "Now I am to be no longer with you." He has been telling them that he was going away. What is to become of him. What is to become of his work. He is to leave them to face the hostile world, the hardships and the sorrows. He has told them that he is about to leave. He has told them what hardships they must suffer when he was gone, and they must not be careless of the means of comfort which he has provided for them, even though there was sorrow and grief he has told them enough that ~~there~~ should be joy.

#### VI. Is It Reasonable This Could Happen?

Could this be true? Is it possible that in spite of all of these things Jesus has said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you." Could it be possible that will put you out of the synagogue, they will kill you?

Acts 5:40-41 tells us when they had called the disciples they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus and let them go. What was the result

of this? They counted it an honor to suffer for him. Did they feel they had been dishonored.

Acts 6:12-15, And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes and came upon Stephen and seized him and set up false witnesses. Could it be possible that he was suffering as Jesus had promised here. His face was like that of an angel. What a way to react to false witnesses when falsely accused.

Acts. 16:19-25. They seized Paul and Silas and when they had been placed in stocks there was singing and praying. How could they do it. Christ had made them a promise that the Comforter would come. The world promises peace and in a paper book costing 25¢ there are those who say they can open the way to happiness, pretending that through riches and pleasures. Of course, we all want peace, we all want happiness, we all want joy. Jesus promises to us that we can have peace. The untroubled mind is a great gift and it comes from knowing Christ. You say it is quite surprising that people could be happy in the hard places of life. Romans 14:22. We count them happy which endure. James 5:11. If ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye. 1. Peter 3:14.

This is strange that they would have hardships and happiness at the same time. Yet we know that happiness comes from the pardon which Christ is able to give.

There is a tension within every man between what he is and what he ought to be. There ought to be a discontentment that would lead him to accept Christ as his pattern in life. The more of God's righteousness we get, the higher we are., Matthew 5:6. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness".

Men will put you out of their synagogues, but the cross of Christ will shine brighter. Luther said, "I can do nothing else, so help me God." And he was condemned to death. And yet Jesus was giving comfort to the hearts of these people.

Do you know what it will cost you to follow the will of God? I wonder if Mary really recognized what it was to cost her son. That Sunday she was to see him ride triumphantly into the city and then before the week was out she was to stand by the cross and listen to the mob tell him to come down and save himself. I wonder if she knew

and after they had made their petitions the young mother prayed, "Dear God, you know your business better than I do. You know how much I would like to play happily with my children, how much I would like to kneel beside their beds. I want them always to be proud of me, but God, if I can serve thee best by being a cripple all my life, I am willing to accept thy will. Only keep me happy in it. For Jesus' sake." It seemed that this was quite different from the prayers of the elders, who had prayed seeming to know God's will, that healing was to come, but the young mother told God she desired to know what his will was and she prayed for the happiness that would be hers. So Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you that ye should not be offended or stumble."

*Mature saints can weather the storms -*