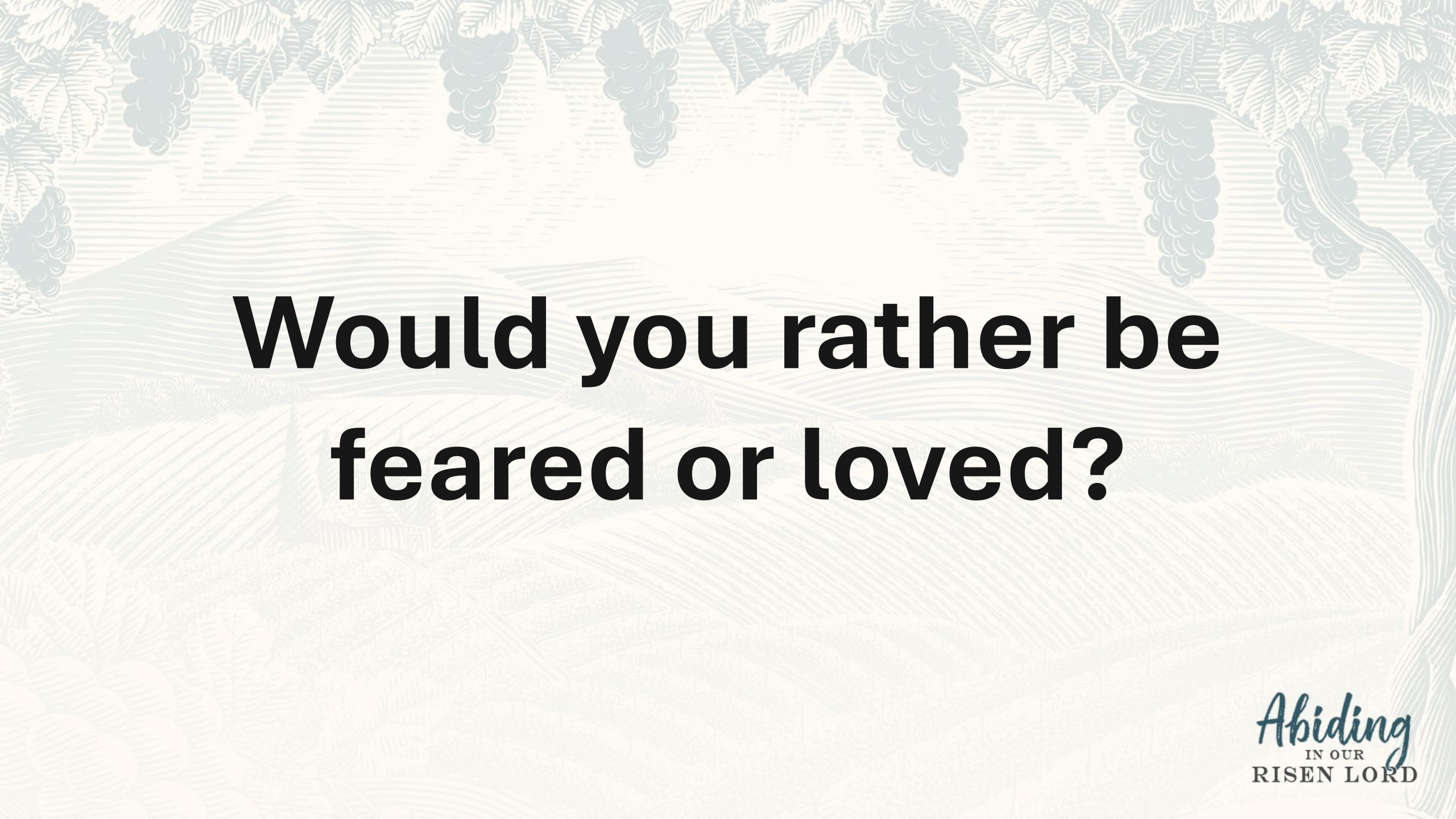


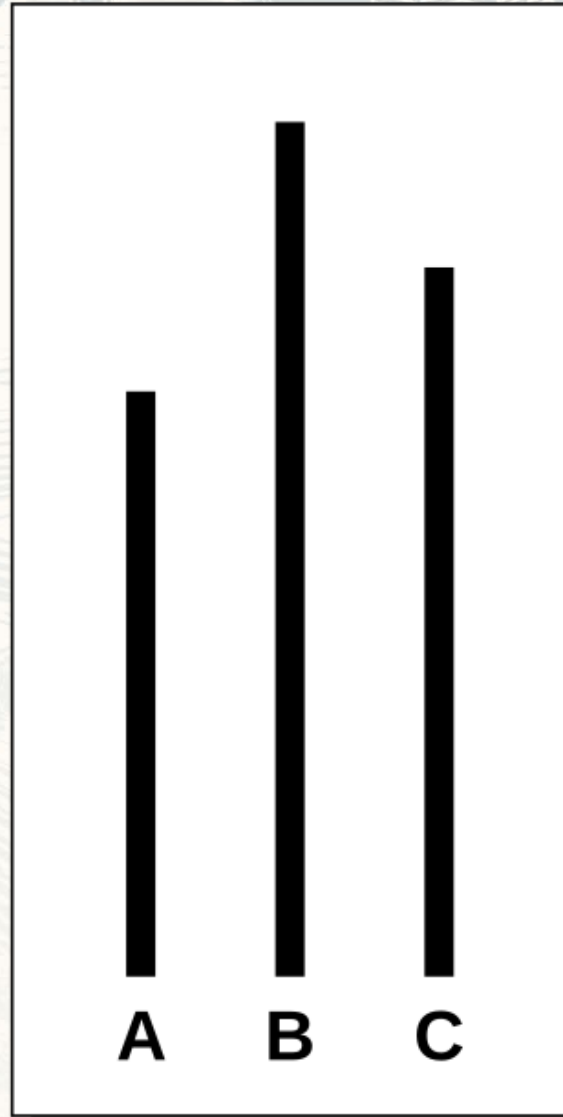
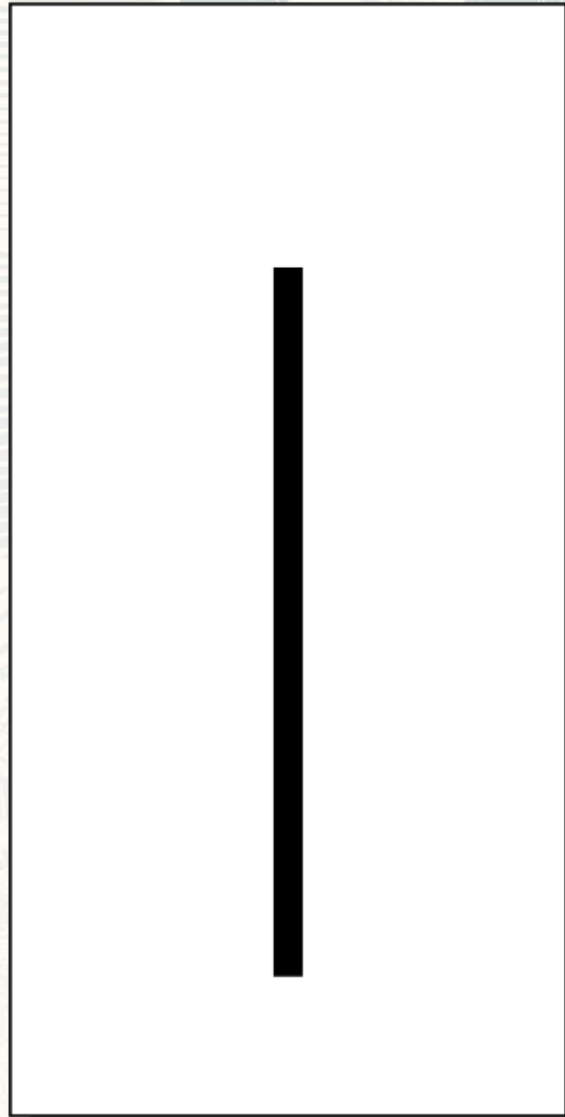


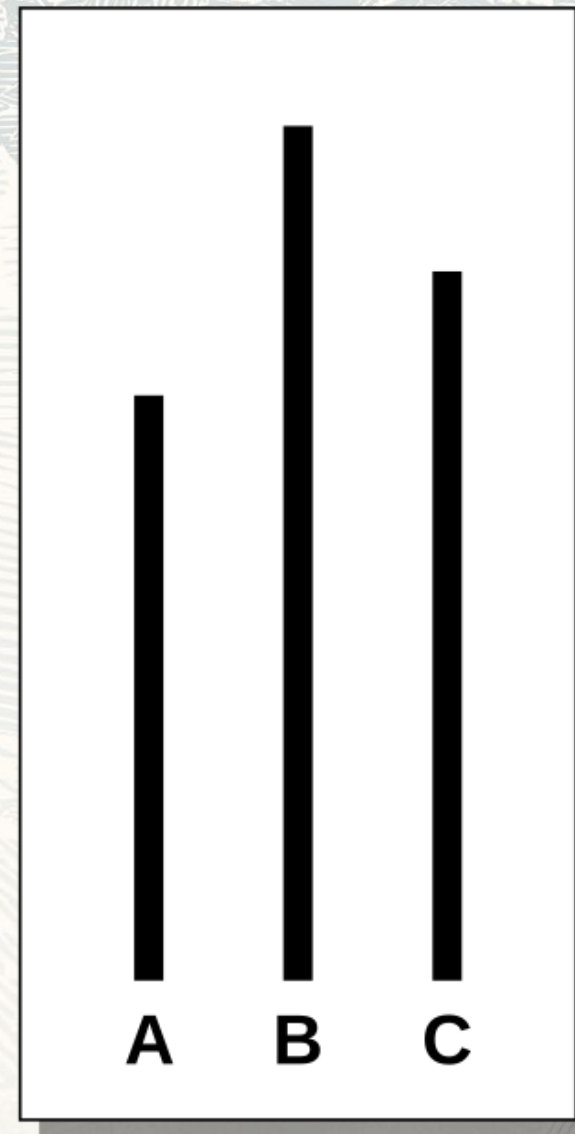
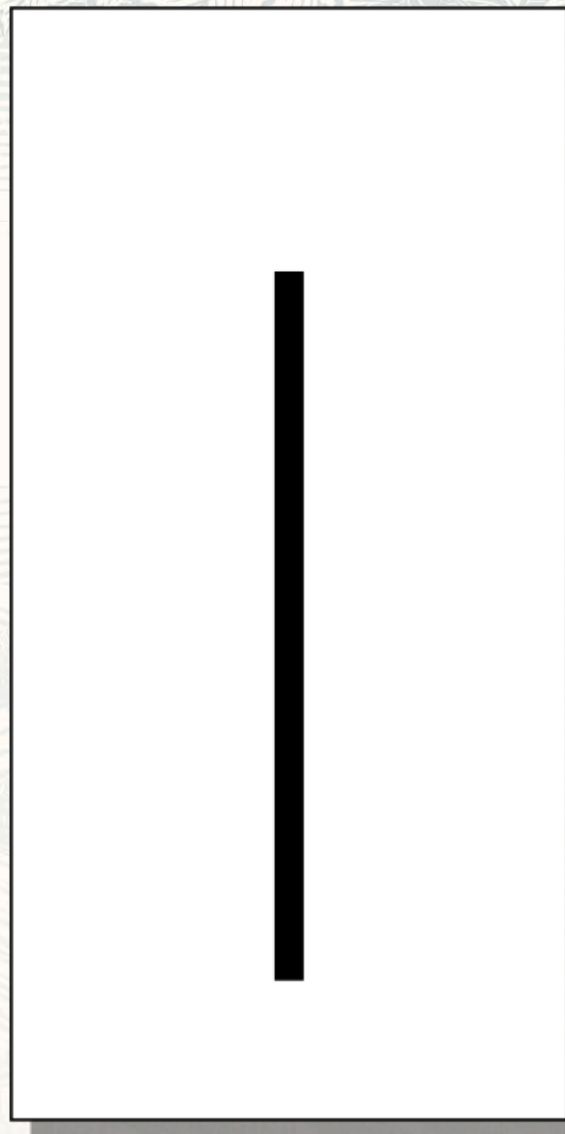
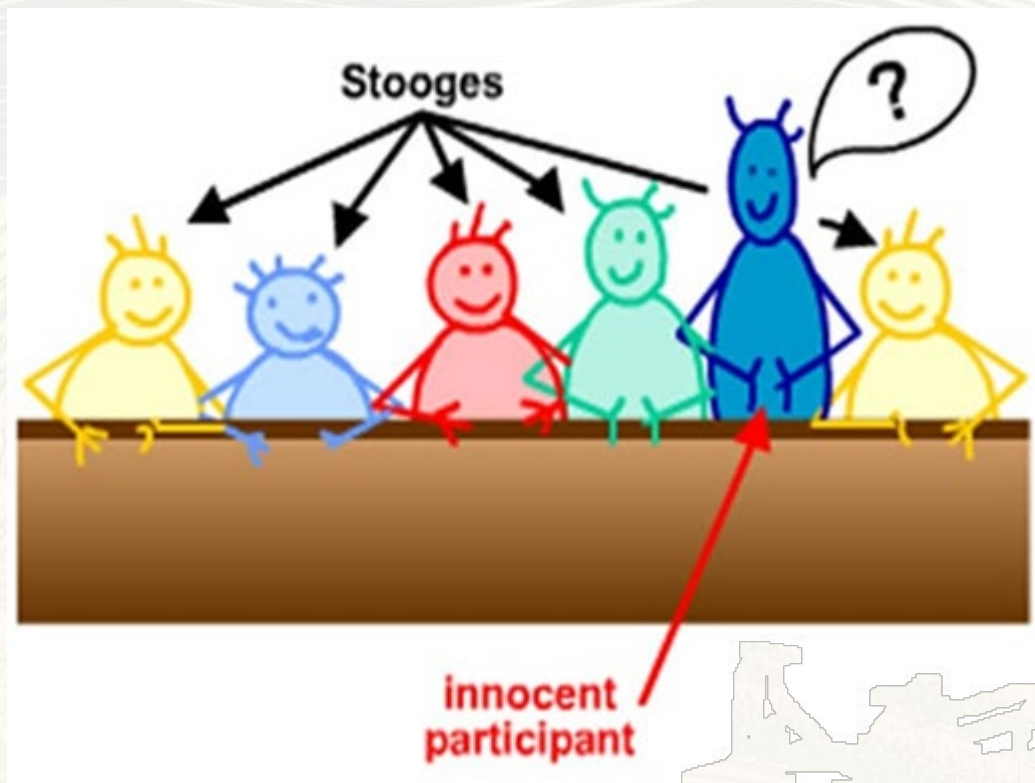
**Would you rather be
feared or loved?**

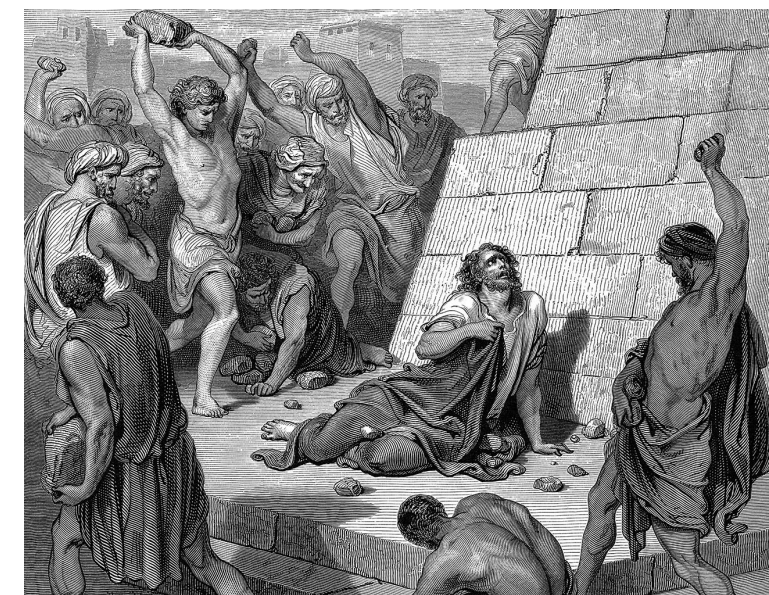
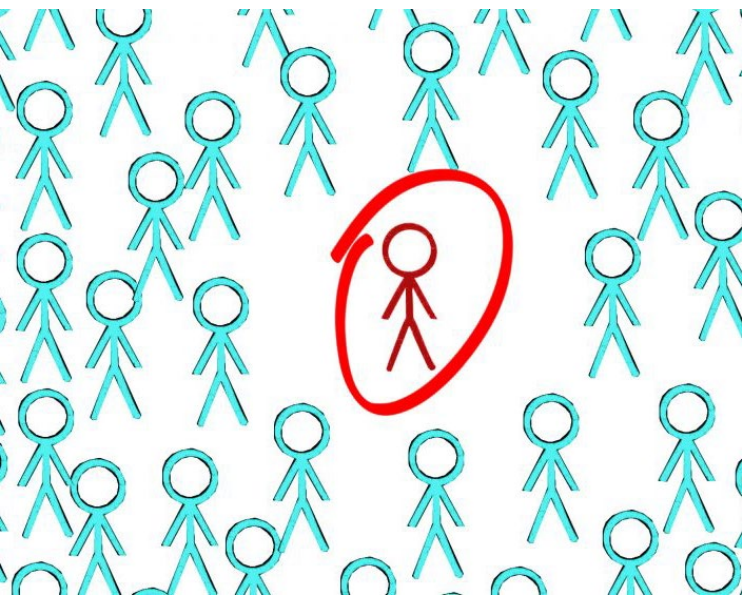
Would you rather be feared or loved?

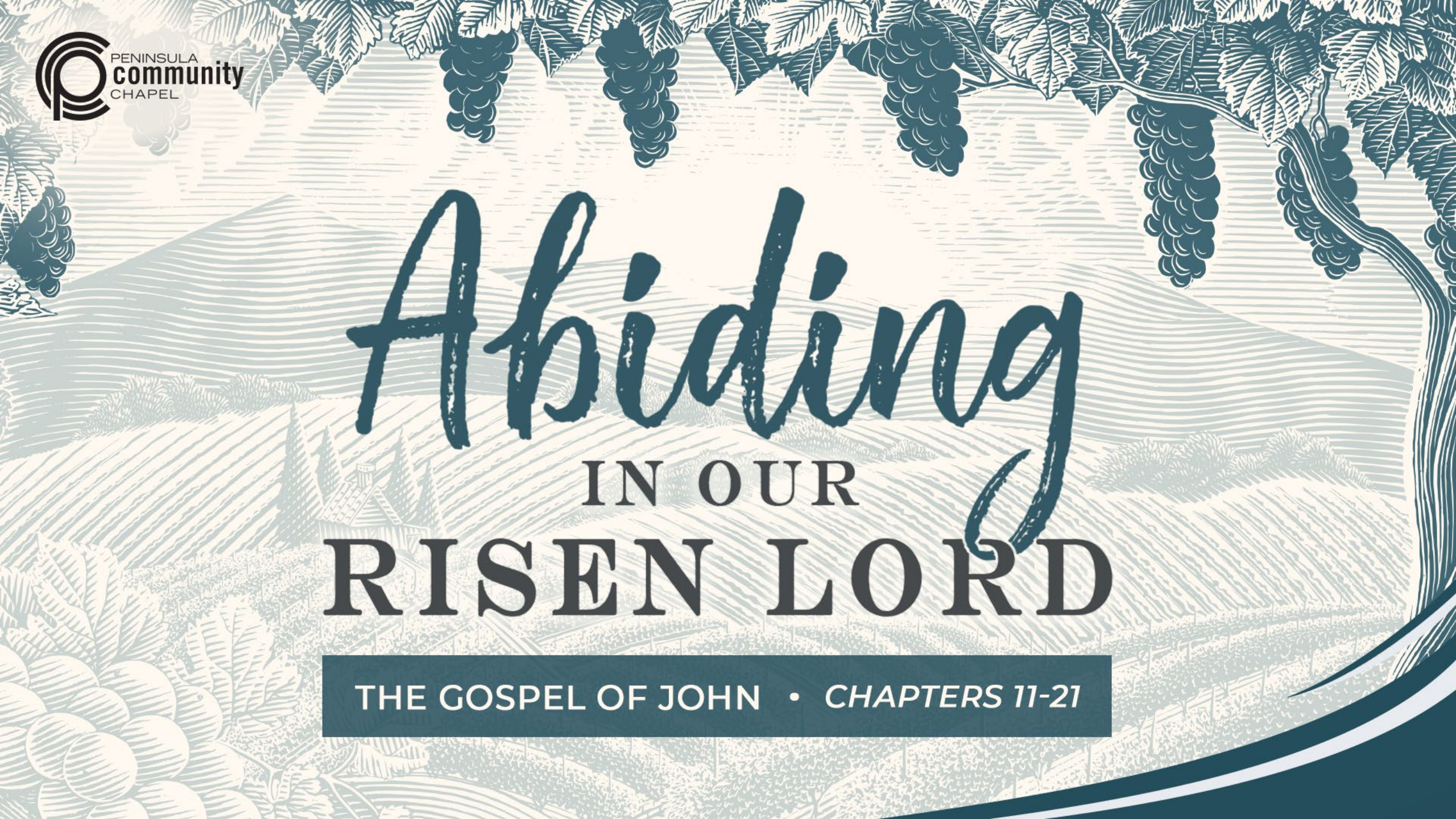


Would I rather be feared or loved?
Easy. Both. I want people to be
afraid of how much they love me.









Abiding

IN OUR
RISEN LORD

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN • CHAPTERS 11-21

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

John 15:18-16:4 (ESV)

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

John 15:18-16:4 (ESV)

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

John 15:18-16:4 (ESV)

The Hatred of the World

Because the world hates God,
we should not be surprised or discouraged when the
world hates us for being his people.

- 1) How will we be treated?
- 2) Why will we be treated this way?
- 3) How should we respond?

How will we be treated?

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you... If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

John 15:18-20

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

2 Timothy 3:12

How will we be treated?

State-sponsored persecution



Ex. Periods of severe persecution in Ancient Rome



Emperor Nero

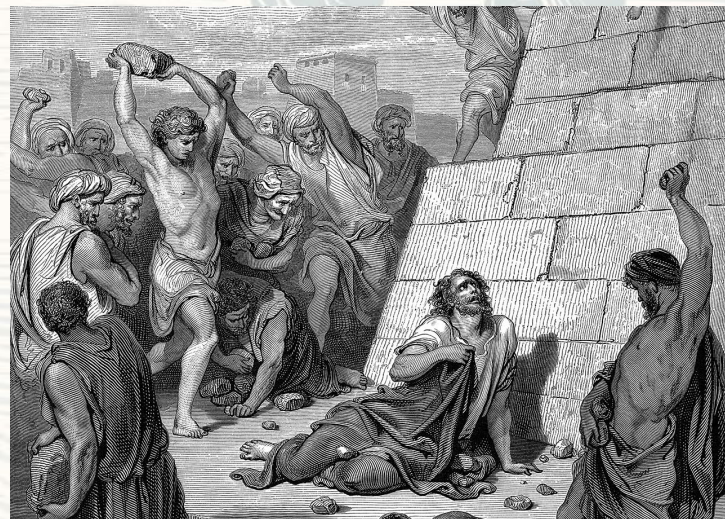
Abiding
IN OUR
RISEN LORD

How will we be treated?

Persecution by religious groups

They will put you out of the synagogues.
Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills
you will think he is offering service to God.

John 16:2



And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church
in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered... But Saul was ravaging
the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men
and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 8:1-3

How will we be treated?

Social persecution by groups or individuals

Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.”

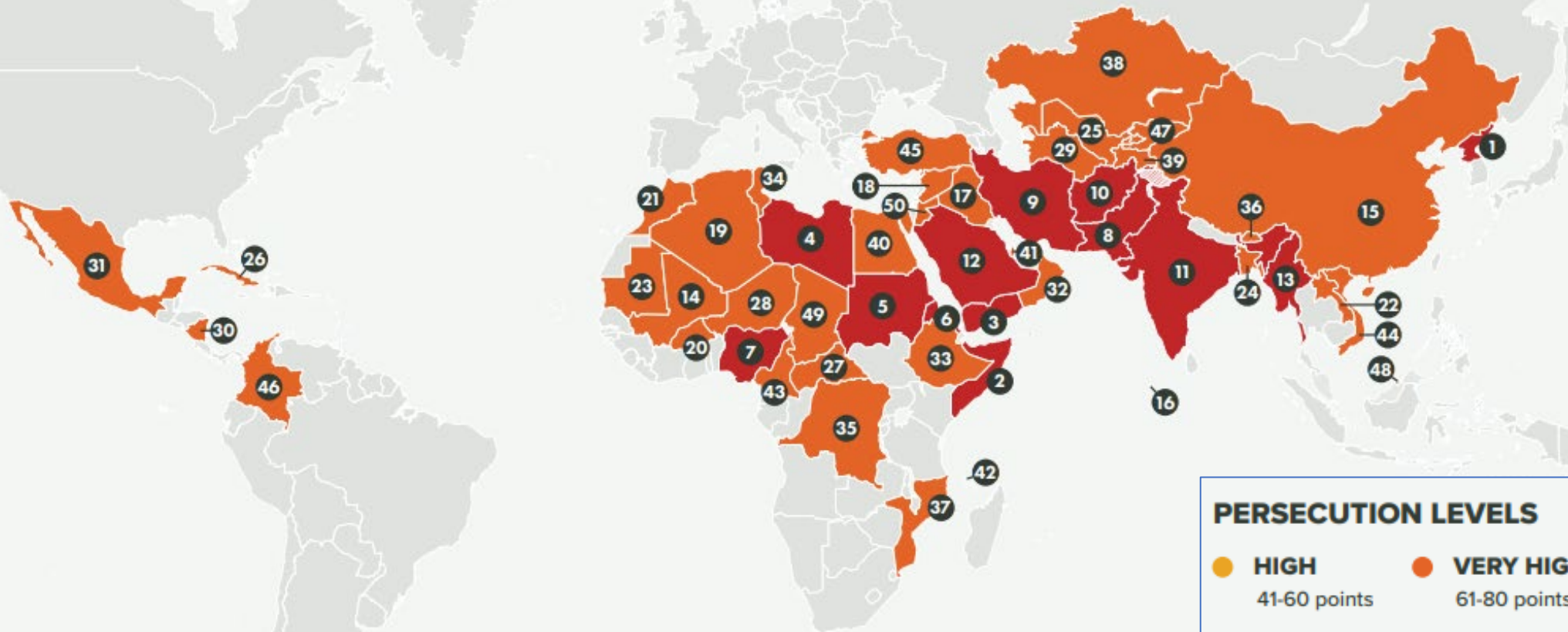
Mark 3:20-21

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

Luke 6:22

How will we be treated?

WORLD WATCH LIST 2025



PERSECUTION LEVELS

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ● HIGH | ● VERY HIGH | ● EXTREME |
| 41-60 points | 61-80 points | 81-100 points |

Every country on the list is ranked as having very high or extreme levels of persecution, showing the intensity of persecution against Christians.

How will we be treated?

Degrees of Persecution

Normal

Ridicule
Disapproval
Harassment
Mockery, jeers
Slander, maligned
Pressure to conform
Shunning
Bullying
Mistreatment
Loss of friends
Ignored
Hatred, hostility
Prejudice

Moderate

Threats
Legal prohibitions
Economic sanctions
Loss of educational
and employment
opportunities
Loss of property
Vandalism
Physical abuse
False accusation
Harassment by
officials
Disowned
Dislocated

Severe

Extortion
Forced conversion
Kidnapping
Forced labor, slavery
Imprisonment
Re-education camps
Physical torture
Forced into
hiding/isolation
Murder
Genocide

Why will we be treated this way?

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.

John 15:18-20a

Why will we be treated this way?

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

John 15:22-25

Why will we be treated this way?

“The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.”

-Jesus to his not-yet believing brothers in John 7:7

**The world does not want a God who threatens
their independence & autonomy**

Ex. The Sermon on the Mount

How should we respond?

1. Do not be surprised – Jesus said there'd be days like this

But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

John 16:4

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you... If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:12-14

How should we respond?

2. Bear witness to Jesus

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 15:26-27a

How should we respond?

2. Bear witness to Jesus

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:18

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued *to speak the word of God with boldness.*

Acts 4:31

How should we respond?

3. With Rejoicing

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.
Luke 6:22-23

Beloved, do not be surprised...But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

How should we respond?

4. Persevere

I have said all these things to you
to keep you from falling away.

John 15:27b

The greatest threat in this passage is not persecution,
it's apostacy (falling away from the faith).

The Hatred of the World

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