



**PROPHECY #1:  
PERSUCTION WILL INCREASE  
HOPE FOR HARD TIMES SERIES**  
Eric Turner, LifeSpring Church, April 23, 2017

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus told us persecution would come, but even in our darkest hour, we can trust that God has not forgotten or abandoned us.

**John 15:18–16:4 (ESV)**

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. 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.'

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.

16 "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.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

**APPLY:**

- Do you trust God to save you from hell but struggle to trust him during a difficult trial? Why?
- How do you view persecution? Is it something you expect as a believer?
- According to these verses, why should believers expect to be hated by the world? Why was Jesus hated by the world?

**For next Sunday, read John 16:5-15. Prophecy #2: Truth Will Divide Nations and Families**