

Matthew 13:18–23

18 Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no root in himself, **but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.**

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

— We Live in a World at War with Jesus & His Kingdom

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” - **2 Timothy 3:1–5**

“I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires.” - **2 Peter 3:3 NLT**

— We Must NOT be Ignorant of Satan’s Methods and Devices

“So that we may not be exploited by Satan we are not ignorant of his schemes.” - **2 Cor 2:11**

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” - **Ephesians 6:12**

We all want to be **Accepted & Appreciated** by our family, coworkers, classmates and neighbors
— We ALL want to fit in and belong and not be excluded. But Jesus says we must be prepared to be **REJECTED, EXCLUDED** and even **PERSECUTED** for His sake.

— Jesus Told us Beforehand so we Wouldn’t be Surprised and Stumble...

“Then (Jesus) said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **great earthquakes** in various places, and **famines** and **pestilences**; and there will be **fearful sights** and great signs from heaven. But before all these things, **they will lay their hands on you and persecute you**, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony... **You will be betrayed** even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And **you will be hated** by all for My name’s sake.” - **Luke 21:10–17**

“And ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’” - **Matthew 10:36—39**

“Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they **EXCLUDE** you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man’s sake.” - **Luke 6:22**

“Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who **ENDURES** to the end shall be saved.” - **Mark 13:12–13**

“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 15:20**

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” - **Matthew 5:10–12**

“Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death... And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who **endures** to the end will be saved.” - **Matthew 10:21–22**

— Choosing Between Jesus & Your Friends and Family?

“For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,” - **Philippians 1:29**

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” - **2 Timothy 3:12**

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” - **1 Peter 3:14**

“But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.” - **1 Peter 4:15–16**

— In Times like these we Must Stay CLOSELY Connected to God’s Family and receive Prayer & Support so we will Endure...

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” - **Hebrews 10:25 NLT**

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” - **Ephesians 6:11**

— Closing Exhortations...

“Do not be afraid... I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” - **Genesis 15:1**

“O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.”
- **Psalms 16:5**

“Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
- **Psalms 73:25-26**

“You are my portion, O LORD;” - **Psalms 119:57**

“I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, “You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.”
- **Psalms 142:5**

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!” - **Lamentations 3:24**

“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” - **Hebrews 13:5**