

# John 16:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

## Analysis

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**They have not known the Father, nor me** (οὐκ ἔγνωσαν τὸν πατέρα οὐδὲ ἐμέ, ouk egnōsan ton patera oude eme)—the aorist tense of ginōskō (to know) points to their decisive failure to recognize God. This is relational knowledge, not mere information. Jesus identifies the root cause of religious persecution: ignorance of God's true character as revealed in Christ.

The tragic irony: those most zealous for God prove most ignorant of Him. This echoes John 1:10 ('the world knew him not'), 8:19 ('ye neither know me, nor my Father'), and 15:21 ('they know not him that sent me'). True knowledge of the Father necessarily includes knowing the Son, for Christ perfectly reveals the Father's nature (John 14:9). Religious activity without this knowledge produces persecutors, not worshipers.

## Historical Context

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First-century Judaism possessed the Scriptures, the temple, and zealous commitment to monotheism—yet missed the Messiah standing before them. This pattern would repeat throughout church history: the medieval Inquisition, Reformation-era martyrdoms, and modern persecution often perpetrated by the 'religious' who claim to defend God's honor while rejecting His Son.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How can you distinguish between knowing about God and truly knowing God through Christ?
2. In what ways might religious tradition or zeal obscure rather than reveal the true character of God?
3. How does Jesus's teaching guard you against both persecuting others and being embittered by persecution?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ταῦτα ποιήσουσιν ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐκ ἔγνωσαν τὸν  
And these things will they do unto you because not known G3588  
G2532 G5023 G4160 G5213 G3754 G3756 G1097

πατέρα οὐδὲ ἐμέ  
the Father nor me  
G3962 G3761 G1691

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 15:21** (Parallel theme): But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

**John 17:25** (Parallel theme): O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

**John 8:19** (Parallel theme): Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

**John 8:55** (Parallel theme): Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8** (Parallel theme): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**1 John 4:8** (Parallel theme): He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

**1 John 3:1** (Parallel theme): Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

**John 17:3** (Parallel theme): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.