

Luke 21:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

Analysis

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. Jesus warns His disciples of universal hostility—the phrase *miseoumenoi hypo pantōn* (μισούμενοι ὑπὸ πάντων, "hated by all") indicates comprehensive opposition, not isolated incidents. The present passive participle suggests ongoing, sustained hatred directed at believers. The qualifier *dia to onoma mou* (διὰ τὸ ὄνομά μου, "because of my name") specifies the cause: not personality conflicts or political views, but identification with Christ Himself.

The phrase "my name's sake" encompasses all that Jesus is—His person, teaching, authority, and saving work. To bear Christ's name is to bear His reproach (Hebrews 13:13). This hatred fulfills Jesus' earlier teaching: "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20). The world's hatred of disciples reflects its hatred of their Master. This persecution serves as authentication—genuine Christianity provokes opposition because it confronts human autonomy and exposes sin.

Historical Context

This warning came during the Olivet Discourse shortly before Jesus' crucifixion (AD 30-33). Within a generation, it was literally fulfilled. Christians faced Jewish persecution (Acts 7:54-60, 12:1-3), Roman persecution under Nero (AD 64-68), and ongoing martyrdom throughout the empire. The charge "Christian" itself became grounds for execution—Pliny's letter to Trajan (AD 112) describes executing those who refused to recant Christ. Early church fathers document systematic hatred:

Tacitus called Christians "hated for their abominations," while Tertullian wrote, "If the Tiber floods or the Nile doesn't, the cry is 'Christians to the lions!'" This pattern continues globally wherever the gospel advances.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that persecution authenticates genuine faith rather than discredits it change your perspective on suffering for Christ?
2. In what subtle ways do you experience 'hatred' for Christ's name in contemporary culture, even if not facing physical persecution?
3. How should the certainty of opposition for Christ's sake shape evangelistic methods and expectations for church growth?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἔσεσθε	μισούμενοι	ὑπὸ	πάντων	διὰ	τὸ	ὄνομά
And	ye shall be	hated	of	all	men for	G3588	name's sake
G2532	G2071	G3404	G5259	G3956	G1223		G3686

μου

my

G3450

Additional Cross-References

John 15:19 (Parallel theme): If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Luke 6:22 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

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.

2 Corinthians 12:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Revelation 2:3 (Parallel theme): And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Mark 13:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Matthew 24:9 (Parallel theme): Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Matthew 10:22 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

John 17:14 (Parallel theme): I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

2 Corinthians 4:11 (Parallel theme): For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.