

"Minor Key, Major Hope" -- John 15:18-27

Main point: When we face persecution, we experience oneness with Christ and the Spirit (our Advocate) in a deeper way!

-The scene in John 15: Jesus is leaving this world, but assures his followers of the Spirit's (the Advocate's) presence.

-In musical terms, this would sound like a "minor" (sad) key. However, it is filled with a major hope!

1. -Persecution is sign of our unity with Christ. (John 15:18-21)
 - Persecution is real today, and in many places around the world it is severe.
 - Yet we are to treat even opponents peacefully. (Col. 4:5,6: Rom. 12:18)
 - "For God so loved the world...." (John 3:16)
2. -Our persecutors will face God's supreme court. (John 15:22-25)
 - God's verdict (John 3:18,19)
 - When Jesus was on trial, his "judges" were really on trial before God. (John 19:10-12)
 - v. 25 – God is sovereign, even when we are persecuted.
 - Psalm 69:4 prophesied that people would hate Jesus "without cause".
 - Even in persecution, God is working for our good. (Rom. 8:28)
3. -When we are persecuted, our Advocate stands with us. (John 15:26-27)
 - He testifies for us. (John 15:26)
 - He testifies through us. (John 15:27, Matt. 10:19,20)
 - He is the primary witness, who empowers us as secondary witnesses.
 - The Trinity works in harmony, is close to us, and empowers us as we give witness.
 - a personal example

Discussion Questions:

1. A) When have you faced opposition for your faith?
 - A. How did it feel?
 - B. Did God seem close or distant?
2. What encouragements do you find in today's Bible passage for when you face persecution?
3. How do you think God can use persecution for our good?
4. Why do you think "Advocate" is a fitting name for the Holy Spirit?
5. When you want to share your faith with others, do you find the words come easily or with great difficulty?
6. How can Jesus' words in Matthew 10:19,20 be of help to you?

“小調裡的大盼望” -- 約翰福音 15:18-27

要點: 當我們遇到逼迫時，我們更深經歷到與基督和聖靈的合一(我們的保惠師)!

-約翰福音 15 的场景: 耶穌將離開這世界，但祂像跟隨者確保聖靈(保惠師)的同在。

-在音樂專有名詞裡，這聽起來像是“小調”(悲傷)。但這充滿了大的盼望!

1. -逼迫是我們與基督合一的記號。(約翰福音 15:18-21)

- 逼迫在今天是真的，在世界其他各地是很嚴重的。
- 但我們平和的面對敵人(歌羅西書 4:5,6; 羅馬書 12:18)
- “神愛世人....” (約翰福音 3:16)

2. -我們的逼迫者會面對神的最高法院。(約翰福音 15:22-25)

- 神的判決(約翰福音 3:18,19)
- 當耶穌受審時，祂的“審判”其實是在神面前。(約翰福音 19:10-12)
- v. 25 – 就算我們受審時，神仍然掌權
- 詩篇 69:4 預言人們會恨耶穌，“沒有任何理由”
- Even in persecution, God is working for our good. (Rom. 8:28)

3. -當我們受，保惠師與我們站一起。(約翰福音 15:26-27)

- 祂為我們做證。(約翰福音 15:26)
- 祂透過我們做證。(約翰福音 15:27, 馬太福音 10:19,20)
- 祂是主要的見證，祂賜力量給我們當次要見證人
- 當我們做見證時，三位一體和諧同工，與我們一起，賜我們力量
- 個人的例子

討論問題:

1. A) 你何時曾因你的信仰面對逼迫?
B) 你感覺如何?
C) 感覺神很遠還是很近呢?
2. 當你面對逼迫時，今天的經文能給你甚麼鼓勵?
3. 為我們的好處，你覺得神如何能使用逼迫?
4. 為什麼你覺得“保惠師”是聖靈貼切的名字?
5. 當你想和別人分享信仰時，你很容易就可以找到適當的話，還是很難?
6. 馬太福音 10:19,20 耶穌的畫如何能成為你的幫助?