

John 15:18-27 “Minor Key, Major Hope”

約翰福音15:18-27 「小調裡的大盼望」

Trinity Baptist Church, Oct. 十月22, 2023, Pastor Lee Boehm

In our current series, Pastor Callum and Pastor Silas have been guiding us through Chapters 13 to 17 in the Gospel of John.

在我們目前的講道系列中，Callum牧師和Silas傳道在帶領我們閱讀約翰福音的第13章到17章。

These chapters give us an inside look at Jesus' farewell message to his closest friends – to the twelve disciples who have walked with him for the past three or so years.

這些章節讓我們深入瞭解耶穌給祂最親密的朋友的告別信息—就是過去三年與祂同行的十二個門徒。

We can imagine that the disciples' hearts were heavy as Jesus told them what was to come.

我們可以想像，當耶穌告訴他們接下來將要發生的事情時，門徒們的心情很沉重。

If we were to describe their emotions as a musical expression, I think we would describe them as being set in a minor key.

如果要用音樂方式來描述他們此時此刻的情感，我想我們會把他們描述為一個小調。

However, I think that some parts of Jesus' message in these chapter are in a major key.

儘管，我認為耶穌在這一章中某些部分的信息是一個大調。

Let me illustrate the difference between major and minor keys.

首先，讓我來說明大調和小調之間的區別。

If I go to the piano, I could play a cheerful tune in a major key.

如果我彈鋼琴，我可以用大調演奏歡快的曲調。

How about the “Bridal March” - we've had some happy weddings here lately, haven't we? (play piano).

「新娘進行曲」怎麼樣—我們最近在這裡舉行了不少快樂的婚禮，不是嗎？（彈鋼琴）。

That's in a major key. It's very cheerful.

這是大調。非常開揚和明朗。

But what if I played the same tune in a minor key, how would that sound? (play piano).

但是，如果我用小調演奏相同的曲調，聽起來會怎麼樣呢？（彈鋼琴）。

Almost like a funeral dirge! Sad, even depressing!

幾乎就像葬禮一樣！悲傷，甚至令人沮喪！

It's mostly the same notes, with just a subtle change in the middle of the chord.

音符基本上是相同的，只是和弦中間有一個微妙的變化。

A change from major key to minor key.

從大調變成了小調。

Jesus is leaving his friends.

耶穌要離開祂的朋友了。

I imagine that some of what he says would be in a minor key.

我想祂要說的一些話應該是屬於小調吧。

His friends are certainly downcast and confused.

祂的朋友們感到沮喪和困惑是必然的。

But Jesus is giving them reasons for hope, so actually some of what he says could be described as being set in a major key.

但耶穌給了他們盼望的理由，所以實際上祂所說的一些話可以用一個大調的調式來描述。

For example, last Sunday Pastor Callum shared with us about how we can live in relationship with Jesus – how we can remain in Him – even when He is physically absent.

例如，上周日，Callum牧師和我們分享了如何與耶穌建立關係—如何住在祂裡面—即使祂身體已不在我們中間。

We do this by living as branches in Jesus, the true vine.

我們在耶穌裡面，真的就像真葡萄樹裡的枝子一樣地生活。

That sounds like a major key.

這聽起來像是一個大調。

It is hopeful and positive.

這是充滿希望和積極的。

In fact, it ends with Jesus commanding us to “Love each other”.

事實上，它以耶穌命令我們「彼此相愛」而結束。

That’s definitely a major key.

這絕對是一個大調。

Last Sunday we ended with love, with encouragement.

上周日，我們以愛和鼓勵作為結束。

However, in the very next sentence, as we come to today’s passage, Jesus changes the tune from love to hate.

然而，當我們來到今天的經文時，話鋒一轉，耶穌將調子從愛改為恨。

He says “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first.”

祂說：「世人若恨你們，你們要知道，他們在恨你們以前已經恨我了。」

What a depressing theme!

多麼令人沮喪的主題！

This theme is definitely played in a minor key.

這個主題絕對是用小調演奏的。

We’ll recognize many of the same notes we’ve heard before, but they are set within a theme that is truly troubling, even disturbing.

我們會認出許多之前聽過的相同音符，但它們設置在一個真正令人不安甚至非常令人不安的主題中。

But minor keys can still be beautiful.

但小調仍然可以很漂亮。

They can still be redeeming. (Play Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata ).

它們仍然可以被救活。（演奏貝多芬的月光奏鳴曲）。

Minor keys can be beautiful and redeeming.

小調可以是美麗的和可被救活的。

We’ll see today that even when Jesus talks about this difficult topic, we discover something beautiful, redeeming, and even encouraging.

我們今天看到，即使在耶穌談到的這個困難的話題裡，我們仍然發現了一些美麗、活潑甚至鼓舞人心的東西。

In today’s passage, Jesus brings up the subject of persecution – the fact that the world hated Jesus, and so it will inevitably hate us for loving Jesus.

在今天的經文中，耶穌提出了逼迫的主題—世界恨耶穌，所以不可避免也會恨我們這些愛耶穌的人。

It’s a troubling truth.

這是一個令人不安的事實。

Honestly, I wish that I could avoid this topic.

實話說，我希望我能避免這個話題。

But we do need to deal with it.

但我們又確實需要面對。

And we find in it something beautiful.

並且我們在其中發現了一些美麗的東西。

That is, when we experience persecution because of Jesus, we can then experience closeness with Jesus in a whole new way.

也就是說，當我們因耶穌而經歷逼迫時，我們可以以一種全新的方式經歷耶穌的同在。

When the world hates us because of Jesus, we can take heart that the reason it hates us is precisely because we are united with Him.

當世界因為耶穌而恨我們時，我們可以放心，世界恨我們的原因正是因為我們與耶穌基督聯合。

However, we need to be careful about this – we should not take pride in being hated.

然而，需要小心的是一我們不應該以被憎恨為榮。

We shouldn't boast about being persecuted.

我們不應該吹噓自己受到迫害。

We need to be careful that we haven't brought it upon ourselves.

我們需要小心，不要自找麻煩。

We never have an excuse for being rude or insensitive.

我們從來不應該為粗魯或麻木不仁找藉口。

We are instructed in Colossians 4 to “be wise in the way you act toward outsiders....Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt...” (Col. 4:5,6).

歌羅西書4章教導我們「用智慧與外人來往。你們的言談要時常帶着溫和，好像用鹽調味.....」（歌羅西書4：5,6）。

We need to do what we can so that if anything offends people, it is only the gospel, and not our lack of caring or sensitivity.

我們需要盡我們所能，這樣如果有什麼冒犯人的事情，那只是因福音的緣故，而不是我們缺乏關懷或敏感性。

We need to remember that the “world”, no matter how much it opposes us, is still the world that God loves.

我們需要記住，「世界」，無論它多麼反對我們，仍然是神所愛的世界。

We don't need to look any further than John 3:16 to be reminded that “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...”.

在此，我們只要看約翰福音3：16就已經可以提醒我們「神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們.....」。

We are not to love worldliness, but we need to love the people of the world, no matter how much they oppose us.

我們不是要愛世俗，但我們需要愛世人，不管他們如何與我們為敵。

And we need to do our best to not cause offence, except for the offence of the gospel message itself.

我們需要盡最大努力不冒犯別人，除非是因著福音的緣故。

Yet, Jesus is warning us that even with our best efforts, some degree of persecution is inevitable.

然而，耶穌警告我們，即使我們盡了最大的努力，某種程度的迫害仍然是不可避免的。

Here in Canada it is usually in the form of an subtle negative prejudice.

在加拿大，它通常以微妙的負面偏見的形式出現。

However, I know that several of you have faced much more direct and painful persecution for your faith in Jesus.

然而，我知道你們中的一些人因為對耶穌的信仰而面臨更直接和痛苦的迫害。

One example, which is largely overlooked in the news media, is the recent attacks on Christians in the Manipur area of North-east India.

新聞媒體基本上忽視的一個例子是最近在印度東北部曼尼普爾地區對基督徒的襲擊。

The news source *Christianity Today* reports that “Since May [of this year], more than 180 people have been killed, hundreds of churches have been destroyed, and thousands have been displaced”<sup>1</sup>.

新聞來源《今日基督教》報導說，「自[今年]5月以來，已有180多人被殺，數百座教堂被摧毀，數千人流離失所。」

Some of our own people here at Trinity, Lalpi Guite (who led us in worship songs this morning), and his wife Zam, and one of our former pastors, Haupi Tombing, come from this area of India, and their own family members have had to flee their homes.

我們在三一教會的一些弟兄姊妹，拉爾皮·吉特（Lalpi Guite）（他今天早上帶領我們敬拜的），和他的妻子讚姆，以及我們的一位前牧師豪皮·湯賓（Haupi Tombing），均來自印度的這個地區，他們自己的家人也不得不逃離。

They may never be able to return.

---

<sup>1</sup> More Than Manipur: Tribal Christians Divided by Borders Yet United in Faith; By PUM ZA MANG in Christianity Today, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023.

他們可能永遠無法重返家園。

Although there are political and ethnic issues involved in this conflict, it is clear that Christians and churches have been favorite targets of brutal violence.

雖然這場衝突涉及政治和種族問題，但很明顯，基督徒和教會一直是殘酷暴力的目標。

Severe persecution is a reality for Christians in many parts of the world, even today.

即使在今天，對世界許多地方的基督徒來說，嚴重的逼迫也是司空見慣的現實。

Many face threats upon their lives, merely for their faith in Jesus.

許多人面臨生命威脅，僅僅是因為他們對耶穌的信仰。

If we are in Christ, then some degree of persecution is inevitable.

如果我們在基督里，那麼某種程度的迫害是不可避免的。

However, the Bible never encourages us to seek out persecution.

然而，聖經從不鼓勵我們尋求迫害。

Rather, it exhorts us to live at peace with everyone, as much as it depends on us (Romans 12:18).

相反，它勸勉我們若是可行，總要盡力與眾人和睦。（羅馬書12：18）。

To be honest, I would like to avoid persecution completely.

老實說，我想完全避免迫害。

I would like to think that I can get along with everyone.

我想我可以和大家和睦相處。

But Jesus makes it clear that the world will hate us simply because we belong to Him.

但耶穌清楚地表明，世界會恨我們，只是因為我們屬於耶穌基督。

There's no escaping it.

這是無法逃避的。

In verse 19 of today's passage, Jesus says, "I chose you to come out of the world, so [therefore] it hates you."

在今天經文的第19節中，耶穌說：「我從世界中揀選了你們，所以世界就恨你們。」

There's good news here – the good news is that Jesus has in fact chosen us.

這裡有好消息—好消息就是耶穌揀選了我們。

He has called us into a special relationship with Himself.

祂呼召我們與祂建立一種特殊的關係。

He abides in us, and we abide in Him, by his Holy Spirit.

靠著祂的聖靈，祂住在我們裡面，我們也住在祂裡面。

We can take heart, because when we are persecuted it is a sign that we belong to Him, that He is with us and He is in us.

我們可以振作起來，因為當我們受到迫害時，這是一個跡象，表明我們屬於祂，祂與我們同在，祂在我們裡面。

And He has chosen us personally.

祂親自揀選了我們。

What an amazing thing!

多麼神奇的事情！

And not one of us deserves it.

我們中沒有一個人是配得祂的揀選的。

Yet He has loved us and has chosen us, and He has called us to be in the most intimate relationship with Himself.

然而，祂愛我們，揀選了我們，祂呼召我們與祂建立最親密的關係。

When we face persecution, it merely reminds us that we belong to Jesus!

當我們面臨逼迫時，恰恰是這個逼迫在提醒我們，我們屬於耶穌！

When we are attacked or even overlooked because of our faith, Jesus stands with us, closer than a brother.

當我們因信仰而受到攻擊甚至被輕看時，耶穌與我們同在，比弟兄更親密。

When talking about persecution, Jesus changes the focus in verse 22.

當談到逼迫時，耶穌改變了22節的重點。

Jesus switches from defence to offence.

耶穌從防禦轉向罪行。

He has warned us about how we will be opposed.

祂警告我們，我們將如何被反對。

Now He turns his attention to the guilt of these opponents.

現在祂把注意力轉向這些敵對者的罪行。

Jesus says "They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin." (v.22)

耶穌說：「我若沒有來教導他們，他們就沒有罪；但如今他們的罪無可推諉了。」（22節）

Jesus turns the tables on his opponents here.

耶穌在這裡針對那些敵對祂的人扭轉了局面。

But this would be better described as Jesus pulling back a curtain, to reveal what's going on behind the scenes.

但這一切最好被描述為是耶穌拉開帷幕，揭示幕後發生的事情。

He peels back a curtain to show that there is a higher court, a heavenly tribunal, to which all people, including our persecutors, must answer to.

祂拉開帷幕，表明有一個更高的法庭，一個天上的法庭，所有人，包括迫害我們的人，都必須對此負責。

When we are being persecuted for Jesus' sake, the truth is that those who judge us are the ones who are really being put on trial.

當我們為耶穌的緣故受到迫害，事實上最後真正受到審判的人是那些審判過我們的人。

This is a reality that forms a backdrop to the entire book of John's gospel.

這是一個構成約翰福音整卷書的現實背景。

When Jesus comes as the light of the world, it is the world that is on trial before the court of Heaven.

當耶穌作為世界的光降臨時，就是這個世界在天庭前受審的時候。

In John 3:19 we read about the verdict:

在約翰福音3：19中，我們讀到判決：

John writes, "This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

約翰寫道：「光來到世上，世人因自己的行為是惡的，不愛光，倒愛黑暗，這就定了他們的罪。」

When Jesus came into the world, God the Father was watching to see how people would respond to his Son.

當耶穌來到世上時，父神正在觀察人們如何回應祂的兒子。

Their eternal destinies would be determined according to how they responded to Jesus.

他們永恆的命運將根據他們如何回應耶穌來決定。

Jesus came to save the world, but sadly, as we read in the very first chapter of John, "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." (John 1:11).

耶穌來拯救世界，但可悲的是，正如我們在約翰福音第一章中讀到的，「他來到自己的地方，自己的人並不接納他。」（約翰福音1：11）。

The verdict is the same near the end of the book of John.

在約翰福音的結尾處，判決是一樣的。

When Jesus stands on trial before Pilate, the Roman Governor, he turns the tables on Pilate.

當耶穌站在羅馬總督彼拉多面前受審時，祂扭轉了這個局面。

We read, starting in chapter 19, verse 10, that “Pilate said. ‘Don’t you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?’ Jesus answered, ‘You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.’”

我們從19章10節開始讀到，「彼拉多對他說：「你不對我說話嗎？難道你不知道我有權柄釋放你，也有權柄把你釘十字架嗎？」耶穌回答他：「若不是從上頭賜給你的，你就毫無權柄辦我，所以，把我交給你的那人罪更重了。」

Pilate thought that he was sitting in judgment over Jesus.

彼拉多以為他坐在審判耶穌的椅子上。

Jesus tells Pilate that he has no such authority – and then Jesus goes further, and pronounces judgement on Pilate!

耶穌告訴彼拉多他沒有這樣的權柄—然後耶穌更進一步，宣佈對彼拉多的審判！

Jesus declares that Pilate is guilty, and that the Jewish leaders are even more guilty.

耶穌宣稱彼拉多有罪，猶太領袖的罪更重。

You see, God the Father was sitting in judgment over how these petty rulers would deal with his Son.

你看，父神坐在審判席上，看著這些小統治者將如何對待祂的兒子。

Because we know that our Heavenly Father presides over the highest court, we can have confidence, even in the face of persecution.

因為我們知道我們的天父掌管最高法院，即使面對逼迫，我們仍然有信心。

He will bring every person to account, including those who oppose us, and He will vindicate those who trust in Him.

祂會追究每個人的責任，包括那些反對我們的人，祂會為那些信靠祂的人辯護。

God is not only the highest judge, He is also the supreme ruler over all time and history.

神不僅是最高的審判者，也是所有時間和歷史的最高統治者。

God knew in advance what would happen to Jesus – in our passage today, Jesus quotes a prophecy that was fulfilled by his opponents:

神事先知道在耶穌身上會發生什麼—在我們今天的經文中，耶穌引用了已在仇敵身上應驗的預言：

Verse 25 quotes Psalm 69:4, “They hated me without cause.”

第25節引用詩篇69：4，「無故恨我的，比我的頭髮還多。」

This was written in Scripture centuries before it was fulfilled by those who persecuted and executed Jesus.

寫在幾個世紀之前的聖經，已經預言了耶穌的受苦和受死。

God knew beforehand what would happen.

神事先知道會發生什麼。

God was sovereign over all the events of Jesus’ trial and execution.

神掌管一切包括耶穌受審判和釘十字架的所有事件。

And He allowed it for the very purpose that Christ could serve the sentence for our sin, and that He could rise to share with us the gift of eternal life.

祂允許這一切發生的目的正是為了讓基督可以為我們的罪受死，並且祂可以復活與我們分享永生的禮物。

When we experience persecution, we can be sure that God is still sovereign over all that happens to us.

當我們經歷逼迫時，我們可以確信神仍然對發生在我們身上的一切擁有主權。

Nothing escapes his foreknowledge, and nothing sidetracks his plan for our salvation.

沒有什麼能逃脫祂的預知，也沒有什麼能偏離祂對我們救恩的計劃。

As we read in Romans 8, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Rom. 8:28).

正如我們在羅馬書8章中讀到的：「我們知道，萬事都互相效力，叫愛神的人得益處，就是按他旨意被召的人。」（羅馬書8：28）。

He is working out his plan for our good.

祂正在為我們的益處執行祂的計劃。

If people persecute us, we can be confident that God is sovereign and in control of all that happens to us.

如果人們逼迫我們，我們可以確信神是至高無上的，掌管著發生在我們身上的一切。

He will work it out for our good.

祂會為了我們的益處。

He is the supreme judge over all courts, the one enthroned in Heaven, who will bring justice for all, and who will vindicate all those who are faithful to Him.

祂是所有法庭的最高法官，是坐在天堂寶座上的法官，祂將為所有人帶來公義，並將為所有忠於祂的人辯護。

So, when we face persecution, we should realize that it is a sign of our being united with Christ.

因此，每當面臨逼迫時，我們都應該意識到這是我們與基督聯合的標誌。

We should be confident, knowing that a higher court will judge all people, including those who oppose us.

我們應該有信心，知道更高的法院將審判所有人，包括那些反對我們的人。

And, finally, we should take heart knowing that the Holy Spirit gives testimony through us.

最後，我們應該振作起來，知道聖靈要通過我們作見證。

In Pastor Callum’s recent sermons, He has pointed out that in these chapters of John, the best word to describe the Holy Spirit is “Advocate”.

在Callum牧師最近的講道中，他指出，在約翰福音的這些章節中，描述聖靈的最好的詞語是「維護者」或「保惠師」。

It’s a legal term.

這是一個法律術語。

The Holy Spirit advocates for us – He takes up our case and defends us against all charges.

聖靈為我們辯護 – 祂接手我們的案子，併為我們辯護，反對所有指控。

And in this chapter, Jesus makes it clear that when we face opposition because of Him, our Advocate stands with us and testifies on our behalf.

在這一章中，耶穌清楚地表明，當我們因祂而面臨攻擊時，我們的保惠師與我們站在一起，代表我們作見證。

Verse 26 says, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me.”

第26節說：「但我要從父那裏差保惠師來，就是從父出來的那真理的靈，他來的時候要為我作見證。」

When we are being judged by the world, we can be certain that the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, will testify about Jesus.

當我們被世界審判時，我們可以篤定，聖靈，我們的保惠師，會為耶穌作見證。

We can rely on his testimony to make the truth clear.

我們可以依靠祂的見證來闡明真相。

He will make clear that Jesus is truly the Son of God.

祂會清楚地表明耶穌確實是神的兒子。

And He will make clear that we stand forgiven and blameless because Jesus has served the sentence for all of our sin and guilt.

祂會清楚地表明，我們是被饒恕和無可指摘的，因為耶穌已經為我們所有的罪債服刑。

However, we still have a part to play in testifying to the truth of Jesus.

然而，在見證耶穌的真理方面，我們仍然可以發揮作用。

In the final verse of this chapter, Jesus gives us a commission.

在本章的最後一節，耶穌給了我們一個使命。

He says, “And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” (v. 27).

祂說：「你們也要作見證，因為你們從起初就與我同在。」（27節）。

This was true for the first disciples, and it is still true for us today.

第一批門徒是這樣，今天的我們也是一樣。

For we have the testimony of those first disciples written down for us, in the New Testament.

因為第一批門徒在新約中為我們寫下了自己的見證。

When we face persecution, the Holy Spirit will bring these Scriptures to mind.

當我們面臨逼迫時，聖靈會叫我們想起這些經文。

When we face opposition, it is an opportunity – it is an opportunity to testify for our Lord.

當我們面臨反對時，這是一個機會—這是一個為我們的主作見證的機會。

And we need not worry.

我們不必擔心。

We are only secondary witnesses.

我們只是次要證人。

The primary witness is our Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

最主要的證人是我們的保惠師，聖靈。

He will give testimony that no one can refute.

祂將作證，沒有人可以反駁。

He will speak for us.

祂會為我們說話。

And He will speak through us.

祂會透過我們說話。

Jesus himself taught us, “But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” (Matt. 10:19,20).

耶穌親自教導我們，「當人把你們交出時，不要擔心怎樣說話，或說甚麼話。到那時候，必賜給你們該說的話，因為不是你們自己說的，而是你們父的靈在你們裏面說的。」（馬太福音10：19,20）。

When we face persecution, our Advocate, the Spirit of God, speaks for us, and speaks through us.

當我們面臨逼迫時，我們的保惠師，神的靈，為我們說話，並透過我們說話。

Notice how closely the Father, Son, and Spirit are linked in these verses.

請注意，在這些經文中，聖父、聖子和聖靈之間的聯繫是多麼緊密。

The Spirit is sent by the Son, the Spirit comes from the Father, and the Spirit testifies about the Son.

聖靈是聖子差來的，聖靈是從父而來的，聖靈為子作見證。

The love of the Trinity is nowhere more intertwined with us than when we face opposition because of Jesus.

三位一體的爱與我們交織在一起，沒有比我們因耶穌而面臨反對時更緊密的關係了。



When we face persecution, we have a unique opportunity to know Jesus, to know the Spirit, and to know our Heavenly Father.

當我們面臨逼迫時，我們有一個獨特的機會去認識耶穌、認識聖靈、認識我們的天父。

When we stand in the face of opposition, in Jesus' name, we can know and experience, more than ever before, the love and empowerment of our Triune God.

當我們奉耶穌的名面對反對時，我們比以往任何時候都更能認識和體驗我們三位一體神的愛和能力。

I must admit that I have rarely faced persecution, and even when I have, it has been quite mild.

我必須承認，我很少面臨迫害，即使我面對過，也很微不足道。

However, the time in which I faced the strongest opposition to my faith was very formative for me.

然而，我面對因信仰而被強烈反對的那段時間正是我的成長階段。

When I was 18 years old, I completed a year of studies at a Christian University.

當我18歲時，我在一所基督教大學完成了一年的學習。

But that wasn't when I grew the most.

但那不是我成長最多的時候。

It was afterwards, when I ended up working and living in quite an opposite environment.

促使我成長的是後來在一個非基督教的環境中工作和生活的經歷。

After the school year finished, my grandfather found me a job working for CN Railway, on a labor crew stationed in remote locations in the forests of Western Ontario.

學年結束後，我的祖父為我找到了一份在CN鐵路公司的工作，這是在安大略省偏遠的西部森林地區的一個勞工團隊的工作。

I was far from home, I knew no one, and I spent all week with the wildest young men I had ever met.

我離家很遠，我不認識任何人，整整一周時間我都不得不和我見過的最瘋狂的一群年輕人在一起。

These were true party animals that at times did things that I would not like to recount to anyone.

這些是真正的派對動物，有時會做一些我不想向任何人講述的事情。

We had to live together all week, sharing small bunk rooms, and returning home only on the weekends.

我們不得不住在一起，共用小雙層床房間，只有在週末才能回家。

My coworkers sought every opportunity to get intoxicated and carouse in the nearby towns.

我的同事們想盡一切機會在附近的城鎮醉酒和狂歡。

As I shared a small bunk room with one of the popular guys, I realized that I would have no privacy, and so if I wanted to have any time with God, I would need to read my Bible publicly.

當我和其中一個受歡迎的人共用一個小雙層床房間時，我意識到我沒有任何隱私，如果我想與神獨處，我需要公開閱讀我的聖經。

I did so, and when I later explained to several of them that I was a Christian, it suddenly became so silent that you could have heard a pin drop.

我這樣做了，後來當我向他們中的幾個人解釋我是基督徒時，他們突然變得如此安靜，以至於你可以聽到針掉下來的聲音。

It was the strangest thing they had ever heard.

這是他們聽過的最奇怪的事情。

It was as if an alien from outer space had moved in among them.

就好像一個外星人從外太空進入了他們中間。

In the following days I certainly had to endure some ridicule, but that soon settled down, and we came to respect one another.

在接下來的幾天里，我當然不得不忍受一些嘲笑，但很快就安定下來，我們開始互相尊重。

My coworkers continued their reckless behavior, but I had some of the best opportunities ever to talk about my relationship with Jesus.

我的同事繼續他們的魯莽行為，但我也有一些不錯的機會來跟他們談論我與耶穌的關係。

And even though I seemed to be the only Christian around, and at times the only sober person around, I rarely felt alone.

儘管那時我似乎是唯一的基督徒，也是唯一清醒不醉酒的人，但我很少感到孤獨。

In fact, I think that during that summer I grew closer to Jesus, and stronger in my faith, than at any other time in my life.

事實上，我認為在那個夏天，我比我生命中任何時候都更接近耶穌，在信仰上更加堅定。

I believe it was because as I stood alone for Jesus, He stood with me.

我相信這是因為當我為耶穌獨自站立時，祂與我同在。

Though the work was brutal and the conditions were terrible, I would never trade those months for anything.

雖然工作環境很惡劣，條件也很糟糕，但我永遠珍惜這幾個月帶給我的寶貴經歷。

Maybe you have faced similar situations.

也許你也遇到過類似的情況。

I know that some of you have faced far worse.

我知道你們中的一些人面臨著更糟糕的境況。

But for all of us, we will inevitably face persecution if we stand with Christ.

但對我們所有人來說，如果我們與基督站在一起，我們將不可避免地面臨迫害。

But when we do, we should realize that it is a sign that Jesus stands with us.

但當我們面對逼迫時，我們應該意識到這是耶穌與我們站在一起的標誌。

We are being identified with Him.

我們被認出是屬祂的。

He is with us and in us.

祂與我們同在，在我們裡面。

We can be confident, knowing that there is a higher court which will set all things right.

我們可以有信心，知道有一個更高的法院會糾正所有事情。

This minor key is full of major hope.

這個小調充滿了大希望。

For we know that when we speak, especially in the face of opposition, Jesus stands with us, and our Advocate will give testimony through us.

因為我們知道，當我們說話時，特別是在面對反對時，耶穌與我們同在，並且，我們的保惠師將通過我們作見證。

Thanks be to God! Amen.

感謝神！阿門。