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What is the one important thing you will take away from this weekend's message or our community group discussion? Is there any challenge, difficulty or praise that you would like to share with the group for prayer?

What were the disciples to expect in terms of the pressure that would be put upon them for identifying with Jesus?



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Why would it be especially painful to find out who would betray them?

What does God want us to hear? Based on the passage and the questions above, what “takeaways” do you think God has revealed to you?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO?

Describe a time when you said something profound, and had no idea from whence those words came.

How do we reconcile these instructions with those 1 Peter 3:15, where we’re told to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”? What different types of “persecuting circumstances” could these two sets of guidelines be addressing?

What practical things can we do to cultivate a resilient and enduring spirit to face the persecution that God says is coming for those who believe in Him?

What does God want us to do? Flowing out of our reading and interpretation, what action does this passage or the Spirit’s leading, call us to?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

If we delve deep into God’s word, the Holy Spirit will bring those words to mind when we need them. Look for ways this week to increase your exposure to the truths of Scripture.

In the past 50 years, there has been more persecution of Christians, and the execution of believers combined than in all of church history.

Reflect on ways you personally can aid the persecuted Church, whether through prayer or financial support. Look into authenticated aid groups and research what other ways you can help your brothers and sisters in Christ who are being actively targeted for their faith in Jesus.

What does God want ME to do? What is the personal application and action step God is calling you, personally, toward?