

- You are **loved** way more than you realize.

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. John 3:16-17

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. John 15:9-12

- When we're **connected** to Jesus, we're able to live **from** His love rather than **for** His love.

**Action step:**

Those who are connected to Jesus look for ways to **love** like Jesus.

- How others treat me, and how I treat others, is not a **personal** thing; it's a **spiritual** thing.

17 This is my command: Love each other. John 15:17

**The challenge we all face:**

- When we're connected to Jesus, we get **treated** like Jesus.

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. John 15:18-19

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me... Galatians 2:20

**Jesus is pointing out:**

- Your belonging establishes your **identity**.

19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. John 15:19

5 I am the vine; you are the branches... John 15:5

Your life is now hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

- Your persecution is really **participation**.

20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. John 15:20

"Rejoice... that you participate in the sufferings of Christ..." 1 Peter 4:13

**Because you belong to Jesus, you are to:**

- Expect the **friction**.

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you."1 John 3:13

**Action Step:**

Identify one area where you are **compromising** your convictions just to fit in.

- Own your **displacement**.

"But our citizenship is in heaven..."Philippians 3:20

**Action Step:**

Memorize your "**spiritual address**".

- Identify with your **Master**.

20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. John 15:20

**Action Step:**

When someone mocks your faith, respond **spiritually** instead of naturally.

- Remember, it's **spiritual**.

21 They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. John 15:21

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

**Action Step:**

**Pray** for someone who makes your life difficult.

- **Persevere** through the pressure.

I have told you these things to keep you from giving up. John 16:1

**Action Step:**

Review the "**Cost** of Discipleship" today.

- Share your **story**.

27 And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry. John 5:27

"Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

**Action Step:**

Ask God to give you **opportunities** to share your story.

The real test:

- When we're treated like Jesus, we need to **respond like Jesus**.

"When they hurled insults at him, he did not retaliate..." 1 Peter 2:23



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE  
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

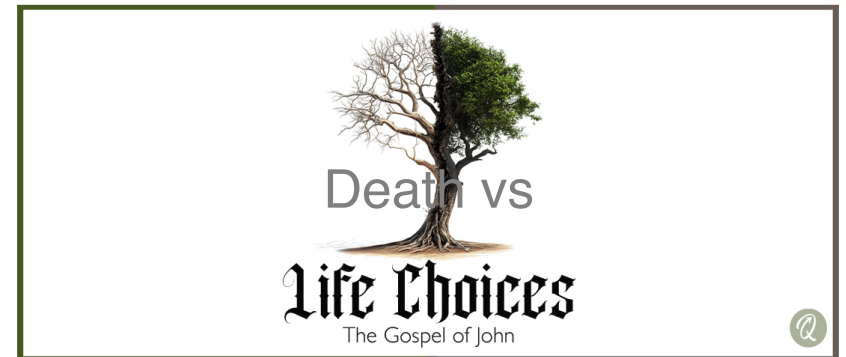
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- When do you find it hardest to believe that God truly loves you?
- Have you had any conflict that might have been more spiritual than personal? How could that perspective change the way you respond next time?
- What are some everyday choices (big or small) where your identity in Christ could shape your response to persecution?
- What usually comes out of you first when you feel disrespected or misunderstood? What practical step can you take this week to pause and respond more like Jesus in those moments?
- Who in your life might God be inviting you to pray for or intentionally love—even if they're difficult?

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Sunday, March 22nd, 2026