



## Put Down & Thrown Out

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Pastor Chris Hill

<sup>10</sup> "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. <sup>11</sup> "Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. <sup>12</sup> You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble. **Matthew 5:10-12 (MSG)**

There Is a \_\_\_\_\_ to Follow Jesus

You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life. **Luke 14:26 (CEV)**

We Must Have \_\_\_\_\_

But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. **Matthew 13:21 (NLT)**

We are called to \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>11</sup> To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. <sup>12</sup> We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; <sup>13</sup> when we are slandered, we answer kindly.

**1 Corinthians 4:11-13a (NIV)**

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:13 (NIV)**

### My Next Step Today Is To...

- Memorize and/or meditate on Luke 14:26
- Sink my roots deeper in God and His Word so that I won't fall away when trouble comes.
- Ask God to help me respond in loving ways when I am persecuted.
- Believe, asking Jesus to be my Savior and Lord.