



**SERIES:** John: Believe

**SPEAKER:** ANTHONY DREESEN

**Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

**Scripture:** John 16:1-4

**TITLE:** The Cost of Following

Hello and welcome to Win the Day. I'm Dr. Anthony Dreesen, your coach for the week filling in for Pastor Nat. Today we are going to look at the cost of following Jesus as the Lord continues His discussion with the disciples.

Before digging into the text, let's start by imagining that you have the opportunity of a lifetime to go on a mission trip with about fifteen people. These people are from different walks of life, but they are all similarly passionate about God. You travel together, worship together, and spread the message of Jesus as much as you can. At the end of your journey, you leave with some new best friends. People you will stay in touch with for the rest of your life. Many of you have probably gone on a trip like this.

This is where we pick up Jesus' dialog with His disciples. He has been with these men for three and a half years. They have shared meals together, traveled Israel together, worshipped together, and become the closest of friends. As we pick up the scene in John, Jesus has told the disciples that they will face a world who rejects them like it rejected Him. Now he offers another sober warning.

Our text for today in John 16:1-4 reads:

“All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you.”

Jesus tells these disciples whom He loves dearly that they will be cast out and killed for their faith in Him. Jesus knows that His own death is quickly approaching and warns His disciples of the trials that will follow. First, the disciples will be cast out of the synagogues. The synagogue was everything to a Jewish person: being cast out meant they would be socially exiled, removed from transactions, separated from families, and thought of as among the Gentiles.

Not only would they lose their social status with the people closest to them, but some would even be killed for their faith. Jesus explains that the people killing them will even believe it is a service to God. Jesus explains these truths to the disciples before He dies so that they will be

prepared when the people turn on them. So that they will be ready to give an account of who Jesus was and is. So that the disciples will be firm in their faith no matter what the cost.

I pray that we too will be ready to share when the time comes that we face persecution. Jesus' love for His friends before He died is on full display in our passage. We can be encouraged by Jesus' love for us as well, and by the disciples' examples of faith when they faced trials and stood firm on the foundation of their faith. We can, just as they did, have that same faith no matter the trials that come up in our own lives.