

What suffering for Jesus reveals about you

For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MATTHEW 5:12B

Written by Bill Perkins

You may not know this about Jesus,
but He never hides the cost of following Him.
He tells you the truth—
because He knows the truth will steady you
when obedience hurts.

There is a moment every disciple faces—
when faithfulness draws fire.

When doing right
makes you the target.
When loyalty to Jesus
costs you something
you wanted to keep.

And in that moment,
you may feel alone.
Misunderstood.
Exposed.

Like you stepped into a storm
you never asked for.

But Jesus says you're not alone.
You're standing
with His prophets.

Elijah stood there
when Jezebel swore to kill him (1 Kgs 19).

Jeremiah stood there
when his own people beat him
and lowered him into a pit (Jer 20; Jer 38).

Isaiah stood there
when kings rejected his warnings (Isa 6–8).

Micaiah stood there
when he was struck
for refusing to lie (1 Kgs 22).

Amos stood there
when he was told to leave the land
for speaking God's truth (Amos 7:10–13).

They weren't hated because they were harsh.
They were hated because they were faithful—
because they carried God's word
into places that rejected it.

And Jesus says
when you suffer for His name,
you stand with them.

Your pain isn't pointless.
Your rejection isn't wasted.
Your loneliness isn't a sign
God has stepped away.
It's a sign
you belong to Him.

Persecution for righteousness
doesn't expose your weakness.
It exposes your identity.
It reveals your family resemblance.
It shows the life of Jesus
taking shape in you.

And when that happens,
you're not standing alone.
You're standing in the long, bright line
of those who stood with God.

Where do I feel the sting of obedience—
and how is Jesus asking me to see it
as proof I belong to Him?

When faithfulness costs me,
I'm standing where God's faithful ones stood—
and where Jesus stood.

Father, when obedience draws fire,
remind me that I am not alone.
Hold me steady as You held the prophets steady.
I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.