THE CHURCH'S PERSECUTION

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Jesus was rejected by His own people, and they attempted to stone Him (John 8:58-59; 10:30-31; cf. Luke 4:22-30).	The Jews rejected Stephen's testimony and stoned him (Acts 7:54-60); they attempted to stone Paul and Barnabas in Iconium (14:5-6); in Lystra, they stoned Paul and left him for dead (vv. 19-20); repeatedly they plotted to kill Paul (22:22-23; 23:12-15; 25:2-3).	Stephen asked God to forgive those stoning him (Acts 7:60); Paul and Barnabas reported to the church everything God had done with them on their missionary journey (14:26-27); God protected Paul (22:24-30; 23:16-35; 25:4-5).
Jesus was falsely accused of blasphemy and breaking Mosaic Law (Mark 2:13-28; 14:60-64; John 10:31-39).	Stephen and Paul were falsely accused of blasphemy (Acts 6:11-14); breaking the law (18:12-13), and defiling the temple (24:5-9).	Stephen's face was like that of an angel (Acts 6:15), and he entrusted his spirit to God (7:59); the Lord encouraged Paul in his gospel ministry (18:9-11; 24:15).
Jesus was accused of being a drunkard and a sinner (Luke 7:34).	The apostles were accused of being drunk on new wine (Acts 2:13).	The accusation gave Peter a chance to preach the gospel (Acts 2:14-41).
Jesus was arrested (Luke 22:52-54; John 18:12).	The believers were seized and arrested and kept in prisons (Acts 4:1-3; 5:17-18; 6:12; 8:3; 12:3-5; 16:19-21; 18:12-17; 24:27; 28:30).	The believers praised God and prayed for boldness (Acts 4:23-31), rejoiced (5:41-42), preached the word (8:4), sang in prison (16:25-34), and shared the gospel (28:30-31); they took the opportunity to preach the gospel (5:29-32; 7:2-53; 13:13-41; 16:31-32; 17:22-34; 22:1-21; 26:1-23).
False witnesses accused Jesus in front of authorities (Luke 23:1-2,5,10).	False witnesses accused Stephen (Acts 6:11-14) and Paul (16:20-21; 17:5-9; 19:21-41; 21:26-36; 25:6-8).	
Jesus was mocked and flogged (Matthew 26:67-68; 27:27-30; Luke 23:35-39; John 19:1-3).	People insulted Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:45), ridiculed them (17:18,32), and accused Paul of being crazy (26:24); the apostles and Paul and Silas were flogged (5:40; 16:22-23).	
Jesus was killed on a cross (Luke 23:33-46).	The Jews attempted to kill Saul for preaching Jesus (Acts 9:22-25,29-30); Herod executed James and attempted to kill Peter (12:1-5).	The church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria increased in number (Acts 9:31); Peter was saved by an angel (12:6-17); the word of God spread and multiplied (v. 24); and believers were faithful even unto death.

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