

## HOW TO START A REVOLUTION

### Facing Persecution

Acts 7:57b-8:3

**On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.**

Acts 8:1

**Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.**

Jesus - Luke 6:22

**You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. . . . All men will hate you because of me . . .**

Jesus - Mark 13:9 & 13

**For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.**

Jesus - Philippians 1:29

PERSECUTION. . . any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Christ.

Every day, according to Open Doors . . .

- 345 Christians are killed for faith-related reasons
- 105 Churches and Christian buildings are burned or attacked
- 219 Christians are detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned

### WHY ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED?

#### 1. SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

**Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

1 Peter 5:8

**They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.**

John 16:2

#### 2. AUTHORITARIAN / THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS:

#### 3. JEALOUSY

**Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.**

Acts 5:17-18

#### 4. GUILT:

**"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."**

Acts 5:28

#### 5. ELEVATING JESUS:

**They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.**

Acts 4:2-3

#### 6. MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS:

**"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—**

Acts 7:51-52