Matthew #11 - Matthew 10:17 - 42

I. Let Us Look at Some Introductory Material
A. There is value in comparing the different gospel accounts
1. Both Mark and Luke's account of this end in verse 16
2. Scriptures (v. 17 ff) probably not referring directly to this mission
   a. Compare v. 18 with vs. 5 & 6- also verse 23
B. V. 23 some think is hardest saying of Jesus to understand in all Bible
C. There are different ideas as to exactly what Jesus was saying in v. 23
   a. If He is mistaken here, then He could be mistaken anywhere
2. Others - Jesus means He will come and meet them before close of tour
3. Others (Calvin, Beza, Chrysostam) Christ referring to His resurrection
4. Dispensationalists tend to put verse 23 to future in great tribulation
5. Some say all cities of Israel will not be evangelized before 2nd coming
6. Some see "coming" as reference to destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
7. Others- general principle- Great commission will never be completed

II. Jesus Emphasizes Here- His Disciples will be Persecuted
A. Reason is verse 25 - Disciple will receive same treatment as Master
1. Verse 25 is wordplay - the call "master of house" "master of demons"
2. They did this - Matt. 12:24 - disciples would receive like treatment
B. Deity of Christ seen clearly in His knowing this persecution would happen
   1. Could have been that they would have just ignored disciples
   2. There were very specific fulfillments of His prophecy early on
      a. Verse 17 with Acts 4:5 - 7;  - Also compare Acts 5:40; 2 Cor. 11:24
      b. Verse 18- Happened with Felix, Festus, Herod Agrippa I & II
C. Verse 21 predicts family persecution- Refers to Micah 7:6
   1. Jesus returns to this in verses 34-37- Must love Christ more than family
D. Does not downplay the fierceness of persecution- John 16:2

III. Jesus Gives Principles to Help in time of Persecution
A. V. 19, 20 - The Holy Spirit will be there to help us to know what to speak
   1. Verses not dealing with sermon preparation-
   2. But disciples will have privilege of the Master - John 14:10
B. Jesus keeps repeating that they shouldn't fear- Vs. 19, 26, 28, 31
   1. Lord knows the temptation to fear is great one for us
C. Jesus gives disciples several reasons why they shouldn't fear
   1. V. 19, 20 Because the Holy Spirit will be with us
   2. V. 22- Because true believers will endure to end- Rev. 2:10; I Pet. 1:7-9
   3. V. 28 - Those who oppose us can only kill our bodies, not harm souls
      4. Vs. 29-31- We shouldn't fear because we know God's providence
D. V. 23- Another principle of persecution- we can flee to next town
   1. Sometimes the best thing to do is to leave -not stay  - David with Saul
      a. Acts 8:1 - Church grew by persecuted saints moving on- Acts 17:10
E. Vs. 26, 27- In persecution keep in mind there will be a final judgment
   1. Last judgment will demonstrate who are true believers - confessors
   2. V. 32, 33- Judgment deals with whether we are willing to confess Christ

Conclusion: The church and world will always be in opposition
Is the Christian Church declining - or is it church culture that is declining