

**“Despised For His Name”** by Kirk Hunt

*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Matthew 5:11 KJV

Tuesday morning, at 9:40AM, I was a colleague. My character would have been described as open and compassionate. I was seen as intelligent and well-spoken. 10 minutes later, at 9:50AM, everything changed.

Did I really say and do so many mean-spirited things in 600 seconds? Could I suddenly become heartless, judgmental and condemning in those few minutes? All I am sure of is that the relationship, built slowly in the last two years, went up in proverbial smoke.

I confessed to my coworker, “I am a Christian.” What really got me were his eyes. I could see the loathing and disgust that suddenly clouded his view of me. He would gleefully turn me in to anyone rounding up Christians.

I happen to know some of the hurts and wounds in his background. Still, Scripture spells out clearly what is right and wrong. If righteousness will not bend for me, it will not change for him.

My coworker rejected Jesus, not me. That is why my heart is broken, for him. Unless God intervenes, he could be lost.

Scripture commands me to find a way to love him, anyway. Jesus' Great Commission calls me to make him a disciple. I'm praying that God will open his eyes to the Gospel. While there is life, and the Holy Spirit, there is hope and a way.

**Think:** A Christ-like life overpowers opposition through His power, grace and love.

**Pray:** “Lord, help me to live like You, especially with my opponents.”

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