

"You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish"

(Lk 21:17-18)

Luke wrote his Gospel when persecutions against the early Christians had already begun.

But, as with **every word of God, it is addressed to Christians of all times**, concerning their everyday lives.

It contains a warning and a promise. One has more to do with **our present life**, the other with our **future life**.



It is normal for a follower of Christ to be hated.

There will always be a contrast between the lifestyle of a Christian and that of a society that rejects Gospel values. This contrast can lead to people being indifferent to us or even **persecuting us in veiled ways**.

It might happen that...

in a way that seems illogical to us, we receive hatred in exchange for the love we have tried to give.

This should not disorient, shock or surprise us. It is nothing other than an indication of the opposition that exists between selfish human beings and God. But it's also the **guarantee that we are on the right path**,



the same path Jesus travelled.

When this happens, our heart should be full of joy, the joy that is the characteristic and the uniform of true Christians in every circumstance.

Also because – and let's not forget this – we have many friends, brothers and sisters in the faith, and their love is a source of consolation and strength for us.

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Parola di Vita

da un commento di Chiara Lubich
dalla Parola di vita di nov'07

adattamento Centro Internazionale Ragazzi per l'unità
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Jesus promised

"But not a hair of your head will perish."
What does this mean?

Jesus wants to assure us that, although this hatred brings real suffering and real difficulties,



we should realize that we are entirely in the hands of God who is our Father, who knows everything about us, and who will never abandon us.

He wants to assure us that he himself will take care of every worry, no matter how small, whether it be a concern for our own life, for those dear to us, or for anything else important to us.

Our attitude

If we are the target of hatred or violence, or if we feel we are at the mercy of the powerful, we already know the attitude that Jesus wants us to have: to love our enemies, **do good to those who hate us**, bless those who curse us and pray for those who mistreat us.

We must counterattack and conquer hatred with love.

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How?

By taking the initiative in loving, and being careful not to "hate" anyone, not even in a hidden or subtle way.

Although the world rejects God, it really needs him. People need his love and are able to respond to his call.

So wherever we find hatred, let's put love, expressing it in concrete ways.

