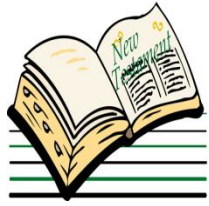


Sermon Notes



Title: "Lessons About Ministry and Kingdom Expansion, Part 2: Persecution"

Text: Matthew 10:16-33

Theme: Christ prepared His Twelve Disciples for the likelihood of human opposition and persecution. In like fashion, we also must not succumb to the hostility that would threaten our lives and our security. Instead of losing hold of Christ and eternal realities, must remain steadfast and preserve through any persecution.

I. Expect _____ (16-23)

II. Respond with No _____ (24-33)

III. Applications

A. The moment I step into the arena of Gospel proclamation be prepared to face a _____ of _____ from those who _____ Christ.

B. My _____ with Christ makes me subject to the _____ given to Jesus.

C. My _____ or _____ of Christ is the _____ for _____ confession or denial of me before the Father in heaven.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. How does Jesus describe the situation into which He sends out His disciples (v. 16a)? How are His disciples to act (v. 16b)?
2. What did Jesus say would happen to His disciples as they carried out their mission (vv. 17-18)?
3. When such things were to happen, how were Jesus' disciples to answer their accusers (vv. 19-20)?
4. What would the disciples witness regarding family relationships (v. 21)?
5. How would people view followers of Christ (v. 22a)? How must the disciple of Jesus respond to this (v. 22b)?
6. When persecution came, what did Jesus instruct His disciples to do (v. 23a)?
7. What would happen before the disciples finished their mission of proclaiming the Gospel to Israel (v. 23b)?
8. Why should the followers of Christ expect to be mistreated (vv. 24-25)?
9. What is the main attitude Jesus' disciples are to have when persecuted (v. 26a)?
10. What must the Apostles do when persecutors seek to stifle their proclaiming the Gospel (vv. 26b-27)?
11. Why must Christians not be afraid of their persecutors (v. 28a)? What is the real object of a believer's fear to be? Why (v. 28b)?
12. Why can Christians be confident that God takes care of them in every situation (vv. 29-31)?
13. What will Jesus do in response to those who acknowledge Him as Lord before other people (v. 32)?
14. What will Jesus do in response to those who deny Him as Lord before other people (v. 33)?
15. What kind of opposition have you faced as a Christian? What kind of opposition or persecution do Christians face in today's world? What kind of opposition is there where you live?
16. What do you think fuels hatred and opposition toward the Gospel in our country at this particular time in history?
17. In what ways do you believe that persecution of Christians has helped to advance the Gospel?

18. How does your identification with Christ affect your life with other people (family, friends, co-workers, strangers, etc.)?
19. Is it really possible to have no fear of those who seek to persecute and harm you because of your identification with Christ? When it is such a natural response to be afraid of physical harm, how can you overcome this should the prospect of death because of Christ face you? What illustrations from the sermon or your own knowledge of martyrs from the past impress you the most?
20. Why is it necessary and important to confess Jesus as Lord and not merely hold this as a private conviction?