

June 4, 2017

The Mission of the Kingdom: The Opposition

Matthew 10:17-42

- Jesus explains some of the kinds of persecution and the response of His disciples as they are sent out to proclaim the Kingdom as sheep among wolves.

Acts 1:8

The Power to Proclaim *(v. 17-20)*

- As Christ's image bearers, some will face arrest, trials, and beatings. Although many first century believers experienced such persecution (**2 Cor. 11:23-28**), such has been common throughout the church age.
- Jesus assures His followers that they will be given the power of the Spirit to speak the Word of God boldly. **Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 14:9.**

The Power to Persevere *(v. 27-25)*

- The Opposition to Christ will also come from within the believer's family and cause some to be tempted to forsake the faith.

- Our ability to persevere in affliction is a proof that our faith is genuine.

James 1:3-4 ...the testing of your faith produces steadfastness [perseverance]. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

- Our perseverance shows God's preserving power (**Acts 1:8**) is at work in us (**Phil. 2:12-13**).

The Power to Fear God (v. 26-31)

- Jesus reminds them that there is coming a Day when all of the deeds of those who oppose His Kingdom will be exposed and judged.
- Believers need not fear that God will destroy us in hell (**Rom. 8:1**), but we are to have a healthy and Biblically balanced fear (reverence and respect) for God.
- Jesus reminds them of their value to God, having been purchased at the very highest cost, even the blood of God's beloved Son (**1 Peter 1:18-19**).

Two Responses (v. 32-39)

Acknowledgment or Denial (v. 26-31)

- As Jesus' disciples, our lives are to be a living acknowledgment that Jesus is the Lord and Savior no matter the circumstance (**Daniel 3:6, 18**).
- *If we disown Him, He will deny us (Hebrews).*
- **Luke 22:31-32**—Peter's denial was not a heart's denial but the temporary fear response to danger, which Jesus corrected.

God or Family (v. 34-39)

- Often the most severe emotional and relational persecution comes from within one's family.
- The message of the gospel is not only a message of peace but of the sword.
- Loving Jesus this way is the result of our submission to the work of the Spirit Who transforms our affections by God's love into God's love for us.

The Godly Response to the Mission of His Kingdom (v. 40-42)

- Receiving Jesus is equivalent to God Who is our great reward (**Gen. 15:1**).