

Dealing with Opposition
Matthew 10:14-33

Review:

1. Those who try to show and share the gospel of Christ will face opposition from all sides – from those in authority as well as from family and friends.
2. In spite of the threats against us, as sheep in the midst of wolves we must speak the Word of the Shepherd
3. Instead of picking fights, we must be wise as serpents, knowing when to cut our losses
4. At the same time, we must be as guileless and innocent as doves, speaking and living in an open and unoffensive manner
5. No matter what opposition may come our way, we should not be afraid, for God knows us as well as the sparrows and cares so much more for us.

Go further: Read I Peter 4

1. How has Christ suffered for us? What does Peter say is true of everyone who has suffered in the flesh?
2. How does verse 2 say that those who have died with Christ should live?
3. How does Peter describe the lifestyle of unbelievers in verse 3?
4. In verse 4, what does Peter say is so confusing for unbelievers?
5. Who does Peter say will hold unbelievers accountable?
6. To whom does Peter say the gospel was preached in verse 6? How were these people judged? How did they live?
7. What reaction does Peter say in verse 7 that we should have to the reality that the end of the world is coming soon?
8. How does Peter encourage us to treat each other in verses 8 and 9?
9. In verse 10, how does Peter say we should use our gifts?
10. How does verse 11 say that we can give glory to God?
11. What does Peter say in verse 12 that we should not consider strange?
12. Why does Peter say in verse 13 that we should rejoice?
13. For what reasons does verse 14 say that we are blessed?
14. In verse 15, what kind of suffering does Peter say is not a blessing?
15. According to verse 16, how does Peter say that Christians should respond to their suffering?
16. With what group of people does verse 17 say that God's judgment begins?
17. What does verse 19 say that those who suffer according to God's will should do?

Apply:

1. With whom have you engaged in a disagreement about your faith in Christ? In what specific ways can you show and share the love of Christ to and with them?
2. What gifts has God given you? How can you use them in order to give more glory to God?
3. Have you ever experienced suffering because you tried to be faithful to Jesus? How did your experience change your relationship with Christ? With others?