

SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday April 25th, 2021

Dealing With Opposition

Pastor Nick Campagna



- **Opposition to faith throughout Scripture:**
Daniel & Friends to today
- **Jesus promised opposition and difficulty:**
Acts 1:8, John 15:18-20a, John 16:33
- **Opposition is a when, not an if**
Acts 5:40-42
- **Who are we choosing to worship?**
- **How does opposition and persecution shape us?**
It grows our faith.
- **Illusion of Control**
- **Jesus testing in the wilderness**
- **When we face opposition:**

In the midst of these things, are we trusting the goodness of our Father in heaven? Are we trusting Jesus promise that if we abide in Him we will find an unmatched joy?

Jesus taught us to pray: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

This is us actively recognizing our place as children of our Father, and inviting Him to enact His will in our lives and trusting in Him even when things aren't altogether clear to us.

Jesus is inviting His followers to trust in His goodness toward us and trust that He will never leave us or forsake us, no matter how difficult of a moment we may find ourselves in.

- **Don't ask Why, Ask Where**

The gospel, the good news is that Jesus is God and He is with us no matter where we find ourselves or what we are going through.

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

We meet in Life Groups to *Connect*:

- Deeper with God and each other through prayer and relationship.
- The Bible to life.
- With our community through serving.

SERMON SERIES:

JESUS THE GAME CHANGER: To the Ends of the Earth

Let's make Jesus' last words our first priority... What compelled ordinary people to face difficulty, danger, and even death, to take the message of Jesus to the ends of the earth? Join us as we discover remarkable stories of vision, faith and sacrifice from around the world, and be challenged to take up the baton in our time.

Jesus the Game Changer Season 2. (2019). Grice. Olive Tree Media

THIS WEEK: "Dealing With Opposition"

Watch the weekend sermon: <http://www.coldspringschurch.net/sermons.html>.

Watch this week's episode: [Episode 3: Persecution](#) (26:31min)

Each week has an episode to watch with your group or prior to meeting.

GETTING STARTED

Persecution was part of the story of the Gospel going to the ends of the earth. The Apostles and early followers faced some incredible opposition. However, they didn't try to control the outcome. They faithfully preached and spread the Good News despite their suffering. (See John 15:18-16:4; Acts 5:17-42; 6:8-7:5).

DISCUSSION

1. For Jesus followers, persecution can be an outcome of their ultimate allegiance to Jesus. Why is this? Can you think of biblical examples?
2. Read the story of Peter and John in Acts 4:1-20. How does this speak to us and our churches today?
3. What oppression or push-back have you experienced due to following Jesus and Scriptural commands.
4. We often decry the rise of secularism. How is living in a secular state a benefit when it comes to potential persecution for following Jesus?
5. What reactions/observations do the following comments bring up...

“But when I look at my own life I feel that the relative safety of culture and the stability of the economic climate that I’ve grown up in, when I look back it makes it more and more difficult to see where the hand of Jesus has been, the highs and the lows. Whereas in the Persecuted Church, they can speak to you for days, for hours, about what Jesus is to them, what he’s done in their life, the transformation he brings, why he matters to you.”
-Mike Gore

“Well, we look at the Australian Church as a prophetic example of what happens when faith becomes free... the value of Jesus drops. I want you to pray persecution never leaves China.”
-Chinese pastor in response to Gore.

6. What, in your opinion, are the main threats to authentic Christian faith in the West?

ACTION

Find out the top 10 countries in the world where it is most dangerous to be a Jesus follower. Choose one and find out about it. Begin praying for it and believers there.

Open Doors releases an annual watch list- [visit page about World Watch List here.](#)