

The Cost of Taking Up Your Cross: Persecution

Matt. 10:16-23

Taking up your cross

- The Centrality of the Cross (Galatians 6:14)
- The Reality of the Cross (2 Timothy 3:12)

Matthew 10:16-23

I. Persecution comes with the _____

- Know _____ to speak
The message of repentance (*Matthew 10:7,14*)
The message of the cross (*1 Corinthians 1:17-18*)
- Know _____ to speak (*Matthew 10:16a*)
- Know _____ to speak (*Matthew 10:16b*)
About the “snake”...
- Know _____ to speak (*Matthew 10:16c*)
About the “dove”...

II. Persecution comes with the _____

- _____ wolves (*Matthew 10:17*)
Acts 20:29...
Galatians 6:17...
- _____ wolves (*Matthew 10:18-20*)
2 points to this persecution:
 - It's on _____ of Jesus
 - It's a _____ for JesusThe promise...
- _____ wolves (*Matthew 10:21*)

III. Persecution comes with the _____

- a. We will be _____ but we will _____ (Matthew 10:22)
 b. We should _____ but we should not _____ (Matthew 10:23)

Here's why:

1. We will be _____ (1 Peter 4:14)
2. We will be _____ (Matthew 5:10-12a; James 1:2-4)

Discussion Questions:

1. Explain why we would place persecution under the nail of "taking up your cross".
2. Does your life and your message cause the "world" to hate you like Jesus said it would? Why or why not?
3. Which "wolves" do you receive persecution from? Explain.
4. Read Hebrews 10:32-39. What does it say about the cost of persecution?
5. Read and reflect on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:10-12. What does it mean to be "persecuted because of righteousness"? Spend some time praying that you would be counted worthy of such reward.
6. Other related Scriptures: Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 4:7-11; Hebrews 11:35-38

Suggested Reading through this series:

- **Life in the Spirit** A.W. Tozer (Hendrickson Publisher, Inc., 2009)
- **Living the Cross Centered Life: Keeping the Gospel the Main Thing** C.J. Mahaney (Sovereign Grace Ministries, 2006)
- **The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People** John Ortberg (Zondervan Publishing House, 1997)
- **Hard to Believe: The High Cost and Infinite Value of Following Jesus** John MacArthur (Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2003)