

# *When They Try to Kill You*

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**John 7:1** After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.

- I. The first thing to notice about this verse is that Jesus did not stop because the Jews were seeking to kill him.
  - A. He “walked” in Galilee, He did not hide there.
  - B. The threat of death and the danger did not stop Him from doing what He came to do, He just did it in a different place.
  - C. Fear was not the reason that He walked in Galilee instead of where the Jews were, but prudence.
    - 1. He removed himself from their presence, so they could not kill him then, because it was not his time yet.
    - 2. He did not say, “Well if it’s your time to go nothing will stop it.”
  - D. There is no virtue or merit in dying when you do not have to, and there is no shame connected with avoiding death when possible.
  - E. To stand for the truth is a noble thing, but to force your enemies to kill you is not.
  - F. To die for the cause of Christ is sometimes necessary, but not always.
    - 1. When they were going to kill Paul, he was let down in a basket and escaped.
    - 2. When Peter was in prison and Herod was about to slay him, God sent an angel and fetched him out to prevent it from happening.
  - G. We talk about hills we would die on, and most people will die on the wrong hill.
  - H. Jesus came to die, but not at that time, because his work was not yet finished that He came to do.
  - I. So there is a time to stand and die, if necessary, and there is a time to get out of the reach of those who would destroy you.
  - J. If we are paying attention it is pretty clear to us when someone is seeking to destroy us, and likewise, when they are seeking to help us.
    - 1. Get away from the destroyer, but cling to those who are seeking to help.
- II. They sought to kill him, in order to stop him.
  - A. Most people would consider killing someone a little on the extreme.
    - 1. When they first disagreed they were not thinking of killing him.
    - 2. But they were offended, and their ire was raised against him.
  - B. Murder is not the first step in the process, but the last.
  - C. Murder begins with strife, and strife leads to hatred, and hatred leads to murder.
    - 1. This can happen quickly, or it can be a slow process over years.
  - D. “Thou shalt not kill.” – the sixth of the ten commandments of the moral law of God.
    - 1. If murder is wrong, then everything that leads to it is wrong.
    - 2. Therefore, it is a sin to hate someone.
    - 3. It is a sin to engage in strife, whenever it can be avoided.
    - 4. Jesus did not stay and fight it out with them, He withdrew himself from them.

- E. To kill means to put an end to them; to shut them up forever; to stop their influence, which you perceive as a threat.
  - 1. It does not mean to put them away or drive them away, or separate them from you – it means to destroy them so they cannot continue to live.
- F. It is quite disconcerting and troubling when you realize that someone, or more than one, are really seeking to kill you; plotting, watching, thinking about how to bring about your death.

III. Through the ages the ungodly people of this world have always sought to kill the people of God who have stood for the truth and righteousness of God.

**Romans 8:36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (in reference to Psalm 44:22)

- A. The only peaceful coexistence we can have with them is when we lower our sails and quiet our mouths about the sinfulness of man, the righteousness of God, and the judgement to come, and let the wicked and the liars rule and have their way unopposed.
- B. When we raise the banner of the Lord they will seek to kill us.
  - 1. Not to separate from us; not to isolate us from them, but to kill us.
- C. To kill the saints of God is the endgame and the devil is their captain in charge of the campaign.
- D. He will do it through religious means or through worldly means.
- E. His usual strategy is to use religion to persuade others to kill the righteous witness of the Lord, and those others will use the government to get the job done.

IV. So what are the lessons we should take away from this example that Jesus set for us here?

- A. We should do everything we can to avoid strife.

**Romans 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

- 1. In all areas of our life: home, work, church, family, neighbors, other Christians who do not see things like we do.
- B. If there is no way to live at peace with them, and they are seeking to destroy us, we should remove ourselves from their presence.
- C. We should not seek to destroy them before they destroy us.
- D. We should keep “walking” and living in the truths that God has given us; not run and hide and be quiet.
  - 1. We should not try to avoid their destroying us by keeping our mouths shut.
- E. We should not fear them:

**Matthew 10:23-28** But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.