

“The Persecution of Faith”

Hebrews 11:35-40

March 4, 2012

1. Emotional Pain.

- “mocking” (36)
- “mistreated” (37)

2. Financial Loss.

- “destitute” (37)
- “in skins of sheep and goats” (37)

3. Homelessness.

- “wandering about in deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth.” (38)
- “in chains and imprisonment” (36)

4. Physical Pain.

- “tortured” (35)
- “flogging” (36)

5. Death.

- “stoned” (37)
- “sawn in two” (37)
- “sword” (37)

Where was their strength?

1. Some saw miracle deliverances! – “raised their dead” (35)
2. All had faith – “might rise again to a better life.” (35)
3. All were commended through their faith. (39)
4. All saw their purpose was to help future generations. (40)

**Application:**

1. What types of persecution have you faced as you have taken a stand for Christ?
2. Re-clarify your faith and firm resolve to have courage in the face of opposition. Ask the Lord for a renewed boldness for Him.
3. Thank the Lord for the many men and women of faith that have gone before us.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
"The Persecution of Faith"  
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1. Discuss any levels of persecution you have felt in your life as you follow Christ. What confidence does Jesus give to us concerning our battle with the enemy? (Matt. 16:18) Review what the New Testament teaches about suffering persecution.
  - John 15:20 –
  - I Peter 4:13 –
  - Matt. 5:10-11 –
  - 2 Tim. 3:12 –
  
2. Describe the mocking and mistreatment Jesus received. (Matt. 26:67; 27:29) God's people will be laughed at by the world. (Jer. 20:7; Jude 18; 2 Chron. 36:16) Share a time when you observed Christians being laughed at. How did the Christians respond?
  
3. Taking a stand for Christ can cost you financially. What kind of financial impact (loss of income) can happen in the U.S.A. if you refuse to compromise?
  
4. Review Heb. 11:36-38 and discuss the impact on the living situation for some followers of Christ. (Also I Kings 18:4) Martyrdom is real possibility for over 50 nations in the world today. What did Jesus say in Matt. 23:37? (Also 2 Chron. 24:21; I Kings 19:10)
  
5. What is the attitude of a Christ follower facing persecution? (Rev. 12:11) Where is their strength?
  - Heb. 11:35; Daniel 3:17 –
  - I Peter 1:4; Phil. 1:21; Matt. 5:12 –
  - Heb. 11:38-39; Rom. 8:18 –
  - Heb. 11:40; Matt. 5:12b –
  
6. Discuss the parable of Jesus of the 4 soils in Matt, 13:1-9; 18-23, especially the "rocky soil." Discuss the condition of the church in America as it relates to this soil. Pray for one another to have a "Strong" faith, able to endure persecution.