

Principles of Resolve

Matthew 10

When they persecute you ...

I. Proclaiming Peace

- A. Good News
- B. Mighty Impact
- C. Irrational Backlash

II. Shining the Light

- A. Declaring Life
- B. Exposing Darkness
- C. Aggravating Haters

III. Resolute

- A. Our Maligned Master
- B. And His Cross-bearers
 - 1. Remember Him
 - 2. Count the Cost
- C. Be Prepared
 - 1. Be Not Surprised
 - 2. Be Uncompromising
 - 3. Be Wise
 - 4. Be Innocent
 - 5. Be Fearless
 - 6. Be Bold
 - 7. Be Assured

D. Stay Focused

... remember Jesus' joy.

Children, Listen ...

1. What were the apostles sent out to do?
2. Does it surprise you that some people would hate them? Why or why not?
3. Should Christians think that people will always be nice to them if they tell them about Jesus?
4. How will thinking about Jesus on the throne of heaven help us if and when people don't like us because we are Christians?
5. Many Christian children around the world suffer for loving Jesus. Will you take a little time to pray for them this afternoon?

Prepared, Not Paranoid

Jesus' original disciples were certain to face hatred for their devotion to the Lord and for proclaiming the Good News of salvation. God's people have suffered at various times in various places to varying degrees throughout the history of the world for their faith. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world face marginalization, outright rejection (even by family members), torture and even death because they belong to Jesus. We might not understand why that is, but we know for sure that it is. Our Lord explicitly told his followers not to be surprised that people would hate us and He gave instructions about how to be prepared in the face of persecution. We have been tremendously blessed with an abundance of freedom to exercise our faith without severe harassment in our country and we ought to be extremely thankful for that. While we should not be paranoid about things changing dramatically in that regard we should also not be caught off guard. Things are definitely not going in a good direction in the USA and we should not be at all surprised if Christians just like us become favorite targets of aggravated unbelievers and God haters as they rise to prominent places of influence. Take courage, be resolved and learn from the Master who has gone before us in victory and Who instructs us in the courageous way all of His followers must be ready to go in the face of godless adversity.