



## Opposition and Fear

By Jeff Bedwell on December 6, 2022

**READING:** Matthew 10

As followers of Jesus Christ go into our worlds telling the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ there are some things that we can expect along the way.

**We are to expect opposition (vv. 16-25).** This happened to Jesus and the early disciples. It is the experience today of believers all around the world. The exact form of that opposition will vary, sometimes through coercive force such as legal or military force, sometimes through soft power such as popular or cultural influences.

**We are to expect to face fear (vv. 26-38).** Our fear of God (awe, reverence, trust) is to enable us to overcome our fear of man. The story is told of Hugh Latimer, one of the most outstanding figures of the English Reformation, as he was preaching before King Henry VIII. He was about to say something he knew the king would dislike, so he held an audible dialogue with himself in the pulpit, calling out, "Latimer! Latimer! Be careful what you say. The king is here." Then he paused and went on: "Latimer! Latimer! Be careful what you say. The King of kings is here." It was said of John Knox, another reformer that he feared God so much that he never feared the face of any man.

**We are to expect to be rewarded by Christ the King as we confess Christ openly (vv. 39-42).** Life abundant and eternal is not found in serving self, but in loving and serving God and others. *"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"* (Matthew 10:39, ESV).

Our society around us is constantly changing. There may soon come a time when we will face more opposition to the claims of Christ than we have ever before experienced in our lifetimes. May God find us faithful in following Christ and sharing the Gospel of Christ!

**PRAYER:** Father, fill my life with a love for God and others. Help me have a proper fear of God that will enable me to overcome the other fears in my life. Use me to point others to the hope found only in Jesus Christ!

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 11

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