

The King's Messengers Under Fire, Part II

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The King and His Glory / Persecution / Matthew 10:16–23

In Matthew 10:16–23, Jesus prepares His messengers for inevitable hostility by calling them to wise discernment, Spirit-dependent confidence, and faithful endurance to the end.

Family Discipleship Questions

Sermon Theme: Enduring Faithfully for Christ

Ages 2–5

Who sends Christians out into the world like sheep among wolves?

What does it mean to be gentle like a dove?

When people are mean to us because we love Jesus, should we stop following Him?

Who helps Christians be brave when they are scared?

Did Jesus suffer for us?

Parent Prompt: Pray with your child that God would help them be brave and kind when others do not like what is right.

Ages 6–8

Why did Jesus tell His disciples they would face opposition?

What does it mean to be “shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves”?

Why do some people dislike Christians who speak the truth?

How does the Holy Spirit help believers when they are afraid?

What does it mean to endure to the end?

Why does enduring not earn salvation, but show that faith is real?

What is one way you may need courage to follow Jesus this week?

Parent Prompt: Help your child identify one situation at school or with friends where it may be hard to obey Christ.

Ages 9–12

Why does Jesus prepare His followers for suffering instead of promising an easy life?

How can a Christian be both wise and gentle at the same time?

Why does the world hate faithful Christians?

How did the Apostles experience Jesus' promise of the Spirit's help in Acts?

What is the doctrine of perseverance?

Why is perseverance evidence of salvation rather than the cause of salvation?

Why should Christians avoid seeking persecution while still being willing to suffer for Christ?

How does remembering Christ's suffering help us endure suffering?

Parent Prompt: Discuss examples of subtle cultural pressure your child may face and how to respond biblically.

Teens

Why is cultural acceptance often a poor measure of spiritual faithfulness?

In what ways can Christians compromise truth in order to avoid hostility?

How can believers discern the difference between suffering for Christ and suffering because of their own foolishness?

Why is persecution historically connected to the purification and strengthening of the church?

What does Jesus' statement about enduring to the end teach about true conversion?

How does the Spirit empower believers today even though [Matthew 10:19-20](#) directly addressed the Apostles?

What fears most tempt you to soften your Christian convictions?

If following Christ became costly in your school, friendships, or future career, how prepared are you to remain faithful?

Parent Prompt: Use this week to discuss modern examples of Christians facing pressure for biblical convictions.