

Are you ready to face persecution? Our declining culture will continue to grow more hostile. What should we do when opposed? When men attempt to silence us and keep us from preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what would Jesus have us do? *Our job is "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God."*

Seven biblical responses to persecution

- #1 When harassed for your faith, Turn the other cheek - Mat 5:38-42
- #2 When Threatened, Stand Firm - Eph 6:10-13; 1 Cor 16:13
- #3 When opposed, Love your enemy - Mat 5:43-44
- #4 When attacked by thugs, Defend yourself - Lk 22:36-39
- #5 When mobbed, Flee - Mat 10:23-33
- #6 When arrested and tried for your faith, Preach Jesus - Luke 21: 12-17
- #7 When facing injustice, Appeal to Caesar - Acts 25:1-12

Maintaining your poise when Intimidated 5-6

Peter and John were treated like common criminals.

The Sanhedrin sat in a semicircle. There were 70 of them.

The Rulers – Administrators and other leaders.

The elders – Members of the Sanhedrin.

The Scribes – Teachers of the Law, Most were Pharisees.

Family of the High Priests – appointed politically by Rome.

A large crowd intended to intimidate filled this awesome hall.

Failure of strategy #1. Awe them with the trappings of power.

Answering Wisely when Questioned 7-14

The Question (7) Matthew 21:23

By what power or by what name have you done this?

They were charged with preaching without official license.

Jesus was not an approved Rabbi - they must be silenced.

They had crucified Jesus. A threat should bring fear!

The Defense

Peter was filled with the Spirit

Peter asked what the charges were - arrested for doing a good deed?

Peter answered plainly – This was done in Jesus name

Three facts about Jesus they did not want to hear

#1 YOU crucified him (10)

#2 He is now the chief corner stone (11) 1 Peter 2:4-8

#3 His name is the only way to salvation (12)

There is no other way to be saved

Every other authority is nothing when compared to Jesus'

When people oppose the Gospel, you just tell them about Jesus

Failure of Strategy #2 to intimidate them with interrogation

Standing Firm When Threatened 15-22

The Jury

They could find no broken law

They could find no way to punish them

They decided to threaten them

The Failure of Strategy #3. To bully them into silence

The Outcome

They threatened them again and let them go

How hard is the heart that denies the work of God!

It happened to them; it is happening today. We must stand strong. We must not be silent. We must preach in the name of Jesus. We will proclaim from the rooftops that Jesus is the only way of Salvation. Not Buddha, not Mohammad, not the new age... no one can save us but Jesus. And we will tell it though opposed, intimidated, or threatened. For the gospel must be heard throughout all the earth and we must obey Jesus as Lord and our Savior.