

Jesus deals with the issue of control in ministry.

I. CONTROL

A. Some people crave control – they hate the feeling of being out of control

1. They live in fear of the what-ifs...
 - a. *What if I'm asked something that I don't know the answer?*
2. Painful issues: What if we are attacked/slandered? What if people leave the church?
 - a. Here – persecution: *What if we're persecuted by officials/government, etc?*
3. God deliberately sends us out into situations that are beyond our control
 - a. He does not protect us from any scary situations/mean people/difficult situations
 1. Not being in control is the very essence of pioneering/pastoring!

B. A simple recognition: You're not in control! So stop trying to live like you are!

1. Healthy prescription: Don't worry! **V19** *do not worry about what you should say...*
2. Simple reality: Worrying doesn't change anything!
 - a. It doesn't make it any better b. It makes things worse for you/worse in you

1. Borrowing tomorrow's troubles and adding them to today's load

a. Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

II. TESTIMONY

A. We are very results oriented

1. We measure life by how things go/did it work did it not work
 - a. Measured by nickels/noise/numbers...response of people; Good or bad
2. But God measures success very differently
 - a. Our purpose involves testimony:
 1. *Matthew 10:18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.*

B. Look at the issue of testimony in trouble

1. **Trouble may be what causes people to hear about God**
 - a. *1970: Young people getting arrested caused people to hear about us – and caused some to come!*
2. **There may be people who are ordained to hear from us – through trouble**
 - a. *V18 as a testimony against them... b. Agrippa/Pilate – they got a chance to hear/repent*
3. **How we react in times of trouble is our testimony**
 - a. When we don't snap/attack – maintain a good spirit
 1. People are won over when they see how you react to trouble
4. **All we do is actually for an audience of one: Almighty God**
 - a. There is a truth: It doesn't matter how it goes – it matters that God is pleased!

III. HELP

A. There is a promise here of God's supernatural help

1. Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;

- a. This is not saying don't prepare – it's saying God will help you beyond what you prepare
- b. All areas of ministry: God says more than we say!
 1. Things pop into our mind in witnessing/preaching/altar calls/conflicts

B. The real issue: We must remember this is a work of God

1. If it's God's idea – it's in His best interest to help us!
 - a. *Matthew 10:20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*