

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.*