

Jesus deals with practical issue: What do you do when people don't want you/come against you?

I. REALITIES OF MINISTRY

A. Our script speaks of the reality of ministry that are painful

1. **Betrayal: V21 brother will deliver brother**

- a. People who should show love toward us will instead violate us
- b. People you show love to/invest time/\$ will do wrong to you

2. **Unfair attacks: V22 you will be hated by all men for my name's sake**

- a. Not b/c you're a jerk - but you are doing right: **V22 For my name's sake...**

1. **For saying what is right:** Pastors have to tell people the truth

- a. People do not like to hear the truth sometimes

1. *1 Kings 22:8 So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."*

2. **For doing what is right:**

- a. Refusing to allow carnality – Enforcing Moral discipline
- b. Evangelism: Attacked for sharing the truth...we call this persecution

II. DAMAGED WORKERS

A. Rejection & persecution can cause a loss of perspective

1. We think we're the only ones – or that it is totally personal: There's something wrong with me!

- a. **V24 a disciple not above master...** If it happened to Jesus – it will happen to you!

B. Another result is fear: **V26 do not fear them...**

1. We can become afraid to do the will of God: We change our actions/convictions

- a. Will not speak up b. Will not tell the truth c. Will not evangelize

C. The great danger is that our hearts can change: **V22 he who endures till the end shall be saved...**

1. **We can become cynical:** Suspicious of people

- a. Unwilling to give/unwilling to invest

1. *PM after split of 1990: Then I won't plant churches any more!*

2. **We can become embittered:** Towards people/the call/God Himself

- a. Turn away from the call b. Can ultimately lose our salvation

III. SURVIVAL TACTICS

A. **Be aware of the possibility of betrayal & rejection**

1. This is why Jesus is honest & tells us: So it doesn't come as a shock

- a. *Not everyone will like you/not everyone will listen to you/some will actively reject you/some will betray & attack you*

B. **Don't take it personal**

1. People try and make it personal: Personal attacks/derision/slander

- a. But Jesus says it's actually not: **V22 for my name's sake...**

1. People upset with us are often upset at Jesus – the claims of Lordship

C. **Move along V23 go to another place...**

1. Jesus is very practical: If people reject you/attack you – move along

- a. This is vs. obsessing over these people and beating your head against the wall

1. Move on to other people 2. Sometimes move to another area/another city/another nation

D. **Keep your heart right**

1. **V22 he that endures till the end shall be saved...**

- a. Make up your mind: I am called by God/not people; I want to please God, not people

- b. I will not allow myself to become bitter/cynical

- c. I will continue to do right