

Gospel of Matthew

10:17-28

Courage!



[illegible]

The natural way of things in human societies around the globe would be for Christ-followers to be hated enough to be persecuted! The natural way of things is for the followers of Jesus to be oppressed and suppressed by the leaders, the political and religious authorities of almost any society! Jesus, Paul, others, all testified before governors and Kings, without the slightest softening of their position to ***NOT*** believe! But it was still God's purpose that witness of t/Gospel be given them personally.



1st objective - we want as many people as possible to hear and have opportunity.

2nd, our objective is to make people responsible for rejecting Christ if they so choose! They have freedom, but they also bear the responsibility!

On that day of judgment, the God, the Judge, can say – “*But you were told – I sent people to you.*”



Vs. 19 – Expectations are that we will be hunted down and arrested! If they don't confine or kill us we will keep talking! If they confine us we will make Christians of convicts. If they kill us, we profit by it, because then we will see Him, be with Him, be transferred *home*!



The truth is that while we worship Jesus in comfort here in America, Christ-followers are getting arrested by the hundreds in China, and spending years of their lives in jail. In Russia the government is beginning to restrict the Bible-believing Christians and outside pastors and teachers from coming into the country to teach and train Russian Christians. In many, if not most Muslim countries, sharing Christ is a capital offense!



Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will give us the proper words to say if and when we are arrested and brought up before trial. The worst thing about trial is the intimidation factor. But Jesus says that courage will be given by God – the intimidation factor will be a ***non***-factor when it comes time to speak for Him.





There seems to be a common phenomena at work there. When our lives are held completely in the hands of others – and those “others” are hostile to us, then, it is time to just let go. **Letting go of our life and giving it over** is *always* the point when the Holy Spirit takes over!

Jesus says that Christians in the future will have to endure the heartbreak of betrayal even within their own family! But family members don't betray family members until they are convinced that their offending family member has done something very bad by converting to Christianity! The only way they would be convinced of that was if society was painting a very bad picture of Christians.



Vs 24 – Jesus tells his disciples that just as he has been accused being evil they could expect society to do the same to them! I never expected it to happen in America – NEVER! But I've watched a steady erosion of sanity in this nation and much the Judeo-Christian ethic/ideals has been reversed and continues to be.



Vs 28 – Jesus told His disciples that it was a natural regression of societies everywhere. So it's happening here. Jesus says to be visible – to lay our lives on the line – to lay them *down* if necessary! We don't run away and become invisible! But not to be stupid about it so that we are easy to stamp out! Don't be afraid of anyone! But be afraid of being unfaithful to Jesus and His mission. But hope is on *our* side, not theirs!

