

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

MATTHEW 10:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. As a follower of Jesus, there will be people who will make life hard on you. (Matt. 10.24)
2. How do we respond to people who mistreat us? Follow the example of Jesus and respond the way He did.

I. RECEIVE THEM

- A. **ROMANS 15.7:** *“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.”*
- B. How do we receive those who mistreat us?
 1. Be a people pleaser. (Rom. 15.1,2)
 2. Jesus was a people pleaser. (Rom. 15.3)

II. LOVE THEM

- A. **EPHESIANS 5.1,2:** *“Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us”*
- B. How do we walk in love?
 1. Put away feeling of hurt and anger. (Eph. 4.31)
 2. Be kind and forgiving. (Eph. 4.32)

III. SERVE THEM

- A. **PHILIPPIANS 2.5:** *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”*
- B. How do we live as a servant?
 1. Have a humble mindset. (Phil. 2.2,3)
 2. Christ is our example of a servant mindset. (Phil. 2.5-7)

IV. PUT UP WITH THEM

- A. **1 PETER 2.21:** *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example”*
- B. How do we put up with them?
 1. Be gracious. (1 Pet. 2.18-20)
 2. This is life we are called to live. (1 Pet. 2.21-23)

CONCLUSION: Are you a follower of Jesus?

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

-Mark 16.15

March 12, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

SERVING GOD EVERY DAY

We ought to attend the worship of the church *“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some”* (Heb. 10.25). In fact, our regular attendance is commanded. However, our weekly assembly does not represent the totality of our spiritual duties. Indeed, a weekend Christian is a weakened Christian. God does not desire time only on the first day of every week. He desires that we serve Him every day.

Every day we are threatened with temptation and forced to confront the wiles of the devil. It is not enough to meet on the first day of the week to combat our adversary. Instead we *“exhort one another daily”* (Heb. 3.13). Just as we get dressed to go to work or school every day, we also daily ought to *“put on the whole armor of God”* (Eph. 6.10).

The apostle Paul did not serve God once or twice a week. Every day he fought temptation. Every day he sacrificed. Every day he set out to do the work of the Lord. It was such a way of life that Paul writes that he is in jeopardy *“every hour”* and that he *“dies daily”* (1 Cor. 15.30,31).

Jesus made daily service a necessary part of being a disciple. **LUKE 9.23:** *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow Me.”*

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

MATTHEW 10:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. In our culture, true followers of Christ are being vilified. But it has always been that way. (Gen. 19.9; John 15.19; 1 Pet. 4.4)
2. Among the works of the flesh are those that relate to how we are treated and how we treat other people. (Gal. 5.19-21)
3. As Jesus sent His disciples into the world, He warned them to “beware of men” (Matt. 10.16,17).

I. SUSPICION

- A. **MATTHEW 10.17:** “*they will deliver you over to courts*”
- B. **MATTHEW 10.17:** “*and flog you in their synagogues*”
 1. Flogging was often part of the interrogation to determine if you were telling the truth. (Acts 21.21; 22.24)
 2. There will be people who will interrogate you.

II. REJECTION

- A. **MATTHEW 10.18:** “*You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony*”
 1. “Brought” carries the idea of being forced.
 2. **MATTHEW 10.18:** “*before governors and kings*”
- B. **MATTHEW 10.18:** “*for My sake*”

III. WORRY

- A. **MATTHEW 10.19:** “*But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak.*”
- B. Worry is an indication of little faith. (Matt. 6.30)
- C. How will we know what to say? (Matt. 10.20; Acts 4.8)

IV. ISOLATION

- A. **MATTHEW 10.21:** “*Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child...*”
- B. The people to whom you are the closest will be suspicious of you and reject you leaving you feeling alone. (Rom. 11.3)

V. FEAR

- A. **MATTHEW 10.26:** “*Therefore do not fear them.*”
- B. Three times Jesus says “do not fear” (Matt. 10.26,28,30)
- C. The way I am treated can challenge my faith.

CONCLUSION: “*He who endured to the end...*” (Matt. 10.22)

KEEPING THE PEACE

With so much hatred and violence in the world, it is hard to imagine a world characterized by peace. However, Christians are commanded to be people of peace. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus said, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God*” (Matt. 5.9). The true children of God are those who seek to make peace. In his letter to the saints in Rome, Paul wrote that we are to “*pursue the things which make for peace*” (Rom. 14.19). How are Christians to achieve peace in a world where peace seems to be so elusive?

Jesus constantly taught us to pursue peace, but He also taught us that peace is not always going to be possible. Consider the words of Jesus in Matthew 10. “*Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’*” (Matt. 10.35,36).

Listen to what Jesus is saying. When we speak out for what is right and do what God wants us to do, there is going to be opposition. This opposition can come even within our own household. We are to pursue peace, but if others are not willing to be at peace with us, peace is not going to be possible. This peace is not to come at any cost. We are never to compromise what is right for the sake of keeping the peace. Paul put it in these words: “*If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men*” (Rom. 12.18). Paul understood that sometimes living peaceably is not always possible.

How are we to respond to others who are not willing to be at peace with us? How are we to respond to those who might shout us down and refuse to reason? In the same context where Paul referred to living peaceably with all men, he also said, “*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse*” (Rom. 12.14). He then wrote, “*Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men*” (Rom. 12.17). Our response to those who are unwilling to be at peace with us is not to return with the same mindset of hatred and violence. We are to respond firmly with the truth, but “*speaking the truth in love*” (Eph. 4.15). To put it another way, we are “*to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men*” (Titus 3.2).