

Based on this week's sermon...

SCRIPTURE

Write down the scripture verse(s) that caught your attention.

OBSERVATION

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture?

APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now.

PRAYER

Write out your prayer based on what God has said to you today.

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the Line of Fire

SUNDAY, MAR 7, 2010

SPEAKER: DOUG RHIND

Scripture: Acts 5

_____ God will invariably result in _____
and increased _____.

Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God." {Acts 4:18-19 NIV}

Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. {Acts 5:17-18 NIV}

Those who try to live a godly life because they believe in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. {2 Tim 3:12}

Mark 10:29-30; Hebrews 11:36-38

_____ intentions will never _____
the will of God.

"Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life." {Acts 5:20 NIV}

Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. {1 Peter 5:9 NLT-SE}

Ephesians 6:13; 1 John 4:4

This Week's Life Journal Readings

Sunday, Mar 7

Deut. 5,6
Ps. 43
Mark 14

Monday, Mar 8

Deut. 7-9
Mark 15

Tuesday, Mar 9

Deut. 10-12
Mark 16

Wednesday, Mar 10

Deut. 13-15
Gal. 1

Thursday, Mar 11

Deut. 16-18
Ps. 38
Gal. 2

Friday, Mar 12

Deut. 19-21
Gal. 3

Saturday, Mar 13

Deut. 22-24
Gal. 4

Sunday, Mar 14

Deut. 25-27
Gal. 5

Embrace the _____ of _____ for the name of Jesus.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. {Acts 5:41 NIV}

1 Peter 4:12-16; 1 Corinthians 4:12-13

For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. {Philippians 1:29 NLT-SE}

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

CLG Notes

Refer back to your notes from Pastor Jeff's sermon on Sunday as you work through the following CLG material.



Obedience to Jesus will often result in living in contradiction to the worldview, beliefs, values and behaviors of this world. This can be intimidating and unsettling for most of us, as well as isolating and segregating.

Discuss a recent incident where you experienced the isolation that accompanies opposition and hostility from those who reject Christ. How did that make you feel?

What is it about being rejected by others who reject Christ that makes us timid and overly sensitive in sharing our faith?

What role does the community of faith (i.e your church or small group) play in your being able to endure opposition and hostility?

Digging Deeper: Consider the following excerpts from Jesus' conversations with his disciples. How did he view the matter? Matt.5:10-12; Mark 10:28-31; John 15:18-25 (cf. Philip.1:19)



When Jesus announced his true identity and mission to the members of his home town, they went into a rage and wanted to kill him (Luke 4:16-30). Did their opposition impact or hinder Jesus from doing His Father's will?

Opposition can be as much an opportunity as it can be an obstacle to relying upon the creative wisdom, ways and power of God to work things out. Consider the testimony and example of the new believers in Thessalonica (1 Thess. 2:14a to 3:8).

What changes was God able to accomplish in the lives of this young house church? How did they grow in their faith and example?

In what specific ways do we grow in Christ-likeness when we are opposed or face persecution for our faith?



Being on mission with Christ and encountering opposition will be inevitable. How we respond to opposition will either confirm our faith in God or contradict it. Do you perceive opposition from people who reject God as a good indication that we are following Christ?

How can we keep ourselves from giving into a victim or martyr mentality when we are opposed for our faith?

How can we overcome the temptation of feeling sorry for ourselves when we're persecuted?

What do you think will be the missional impact upon others if we stand our ground with composure, courage and confidence in God?

Digging Deeper: Consider the 'anything but typical' responses that Paul and Peter challenge us to have when we are persecuted: 1 Corin.4:11-13; 1 Pet.3:15-17 and 4:12-16.