The Big Picture

*Finding God’s Purposes in 1 Peter*

Pastor Toby • Week 25 • 2/5/2023

**Tips for Facing Persecution**

1 Peter 3:13-16

What Should You Do When Being Persecuted?

* Give no place to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:13)
* Value God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:14a)
* Refuse to give way to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:14b)
* Keep Jesus where He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…on the \_\_\_\_\_\_. (3:15a)
* Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ yourself. (3:15b-16)
  + Wait for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Present your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Don’t be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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Debrief Plan: 2/5/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. Pretend for a moment that you are a contestant on the gameshow Jeopardy. What is a subject you could answer questions about with great confidence?
2. Name a biblical character who you respect who was persecuted in some way for his or her faith in God. (No, you can’t choose Jesus – it’s too obvious!) Why did you choose that particular person?

**Sermon Summary**: Whether it’s fair or unfair, followers of Jesus can expect persecution from time to time. If they don’t give in to pressure and instead maintain their loyalty to Jesus, though, they will have the opportunity to give a gentle and logical explanation to those who persecute them, which God can use to humble the persecutors and win them to Christ.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. In your opinion, are the complaints about persecution in the United States today legitimate or an example of paranoia? Explain your answer!
2. From what we’ve heard so far about persecution in the book of 1 Peter, should our posture towards potential persecutors in secular society be one of opposition and resistance or deference and respect? Explain your answer!
3. **Read Matthew 5:10-12 and Luke 6:22-23.** Peter also tells believers that if they suffer for righteousness’ sake, they will be blessed (3:14). What does it mean to be “blessed” in these passages?
4. What fears come to the surface when we experience persecution? What are some strategies for dealing with those particular fears?
5. **Read 1 Peter 3:15a.** What does it ***mean*** and what does it ***look like*** to maintain a fierce loyalty to Jesus?
6. Have you ever thought ahead about what you might say to someone who asked you to make a case for why you believe what you believe, and act the way you act? If you have, what motivated you to think ahead? If you haven’t, why haven’t you?
7. What are some ways that we Christians go wrong in our attitudes towards skeptics (or even persecutors), even if our words/ideas are correct?