SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

PUSHBACK: SURPRISING WAYS TO OVERCOME ATTACKS, Mat 10:16-31 Curt 3.14.10

If you're a Christian you're under attack. How to overcome every attack.

First: recognize that the Christian walk involves suffering…it is not about making life easy…

Jesus sends Disciples saying will be beaten, betrayed run for their lives, Mat 10:16-18a, 21-22a, 23-25.

We are His Disciples, something similar awaits…?

"Surely God won't let certain things happen…" yet happens to people throughout scripture.

Often judgment, but for His: blessing, Rom 8:28

Prunes those He loves to increase fruit, Jn 15:2

Paul –beaten, jailed, drowned, left for dead – he says we will "suffer" for Christ, 2 Tim 2:3-4

If something bad happens to us think God judging, this passage says if doing right, will be attacked

Bottom line, He's working out His plan:

To witness to the nations, Mat 10:18b-20

So "endure" to the end – don't grow cold, disappointed – if don't, saved, Mat 10:22b

God has you, Mat 10:26-31

So way to overcome attacks is:

Focus: When under attack, do whatever you know for certain He has led you to do, and only that

Dominion: We gave away dominion given to us in garden. World's now trying to get dominion over you

Best way to take it back? Take the day off: Sabbath – Stop, Rest, Remember, Rejoice which is to say Trust God

Grow: do Discipleship Process… 1 Cor 9:24-27

So let's all do His work/will: take time to help someone else come to Lord this Easter by sending in your story, i.e. What specific thing happened in your life to open your eyes and make you know that Jesus is real, is Lord and is worthy of your worship? We're not looking for "because He died for me" rather what happened to make you realize that He really did die for you? This may be your salvation story, or may have happened later.

NEXT WEEK: Pushback Against the Pushback

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Read Matt 10: 16- 25 slowly, remembering that we (today's church, world- wide) are the commissioned disciples Jesus has in mind. What pictures, images, situations come to mind when you read Jesus' description of the "push back" that will come to his followers? How can we prepare for these kinds of scenarios? What's the difference between what might be our "knee- jerk" reaction to this "push back" and Jesus' instructions?
2. What do you think of the common adage, "the safest place in the world is in the center of God's will"? How might you modify this saying, based on the truth of this sermon? What is one "push back" context in your life where God is requiring active and courageous faith? How "safe" does this feel?
3. What warning did you hear in Curt's teaching this weekend? What encouragement? Is there a new approach to "push back" God is bringing you to, in which we can support you ?
4. Describe a "balanced" place that we can occupy in this area of "spiritual warfare". How do we know when it is becoming an unhelpful distraction from progressing in our faith? On the other hand, how will we know when we are failing to contend in Jesus' authority in a right way?

TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus