

Different

Different Perspective In Persecution (Wk.4)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Overcoming persecution begins when we change our perspective.

Key Scriptures

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Finally, all of you, be like minded, sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insults. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9

Prepare today for the persecution you will face tomorrow.

Four choices that change your perspective:

- Choose to be Like-Minded
- Choose to be Sympathetic
- Choose to Love Like Family
- Choose Compassion & Humility

Great breakthroughs are often the result of a different perspective.

Start talking.

- Pastor Joel described how Post-It Notes were the result of a different perspective. What other inventions/concepts came about because of viewing a problem from a different perspective?
- In what ways does our perspective define our reality?
- Describe a time when a changed perspective changed your thinking.

Start thinking.

- Persecution in the New Testament refers to “overt hostility against the core tenants of faith.” In what ways have we softened our view of persecution?
- In what ways are Christians persecuted in today’s society? What is the typical response?
- Read 1 Peter 4:12-13. Why is it important not to be surprised at persecution?
- How is persecution creating something valuable in our lives?

Start sharing.

- Apart from the power of the Holy Spirit, how does your flesh typically respond to persecution and attack?
- Read 1 Peter 3:8-9. Which of the four admonitions is easiest and hardest for you to follow? Explain.
- What is the “blessing” that Peter says we will inherit?

Start doing.

- Share at least one practical application you will implement this week from one of the four choices Peter calls us to follow.
- Join Harbor Church as we read through 1 Peter. This week we invite you to read 1 Peter 4 & 5.

Closing prayer.

Jesus thank you for your example of love in the midst of persecution. I confess often I give in to my basic impulses and choose insult for insult. Forgive me for responding out of my flesh and please give me the strength to have a different perspective; to lean into you and your grace. Help me to have the mind of Christ, to be sympathetic, to lead with love, and to choose compassion with humility as I live a life that is set apart and different from others.