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**SERMON NOTES February 19, 2023**

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**Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)**

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**Matthew 10:16-25  
Hope Overcoming Hostility  
Pastor Mike**

- I. A \_\_\_\_\_ on calling and culture
- a. Should we be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?
- b. The realistic confidence of \_\_\_\_\_
- II. The “\_\_\_\_\_” of God’s sovereign plan
- III. The reality of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Don’t be \_\_\_\_\_: It’s part of \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Opponents of Christ will try to \_\_\_\_\_ truth and morality
- c. Jesus and his truth will cause \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. Why people \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and his message
- a. They reject his \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_
- b. They reject us as \_\_\_\_\_
- V. What is God calling us \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Don’t be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ in seeking to reach lost sheep
- c. Be faithful, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Press on with \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. It is easy to get discouraged by the spiritual and moral direction of our culture. But what is a Biblical perspective on our calling and our culture? Should we be optimistic or pessimistic?
  - a. Are you by nature more of an optimist or a pessimist? Where does optimism get things right and wrong? Where does pessimism get things right and wrong?
  - b. In his message Pastor Mike talked about the word that he invented - sovereignism, as opposed to optimism or pessimism. How is the Biblical perspective (what Pastor Mike calls sovereignism) different from either optimism or pessimism?
  - c. What are the dangers of seeing our call and culture only in optimistic terms? What are the dangers of seeing it only in pessimistic terms? What is the importance of having the biblical balance of sovereignism?
2. Many contemporary pastors and church leaders teach that in order to win an opportunity to share gospel with people in our secular culture, we as a church need to work to be liked and respected by those we seek to reach. But we must ask, is this goal and desire at odds with Jesus words in Matthew 10:22 where he tells us that the world will hate us?
  - a. Is this desire to be like and respected in order to win a hearing for the gospel rooted in Biblical teaching? If so, what scriptures can you think of that would teach this?
  - b. Considering how inconsistent this desire is with Jesus' warning in Matthew 10, it would seem that it is at best, unbalanced. What are the dangers for a church that is overly motivated to win approval of those in the secular culture?
  - c. What are ways that the contemporary church can (and often does) compromise something essential in our message in a desire to be liked by the world?
  - d. What are the dangers for us individually if we become overly driven by the desire to win the world's approval?
3. Many non-Christians in our culture will criticize Christians for being unlike Jesus if we call any behavior sin if we talk in any way about the idea of God's judgment. Jesus is presented as a person of ultimate love, grace, and acceptance who wouldn't do any of these things.
  - a. In Matthew 10, Jesus teaches that he was hated and rejected, and his followers should expect the same reception. Where is the disconnect between the world's view of Jesus and what his followers should be and Jesus' teaching in Matthew 10?
  - b. How can we, as followers of Jesus defend ourselves against the pressure of being like the Christ the culture demands and be faithful in following the true Jesus?
  - c. In John 1:14, Jesus is described as being "*full of grace and truth*." What does that mean? What does it look like to be full of grace and truth?
4. Matthew 10 teaches that the primary reason that people reject Jesus and his message is because his message is about the kingdom of God, which implies that he is our rightful king. People reject him and his message because they reject his authority as king.
  - a. In our modern culture where do you see people reject Jesus and his truth because they reject his authority?
  - b. Does living in a democracy (where we have a voice and vote in everything) make it more difficult to understand that we are to submit to God as our king, to whom we are to willingly submit ourselves to His complete rule in every aspect of life?
  - c. In your life, is God more often your king or your advisor? Your pilot or your co-pilot?