

# COMMAND: PERSEVERE

## EXPANDED LEADER INFORMATION

<i>Looking Back</i>	<i>Looking Up</i>	<i>Looking Forward</i>
<p><b>1. CARE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PRAISES/REQUESTS</li><li>• PRAY FOR EACH OTHER</li></ul> <p><b>2. LOVING ACCOUNTABILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ABIDE?</li><li>• MISSION STATEMENT?</li><li>• PREVIOUS GOAL(S)</li></ul>	<p><b>3. WORSHIP + SEEK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26</li></ul> <p><b>4. VISION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GREAT COMMISSION</li></ul> <p><b>5. NEW LESSON</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COMMAND &gt; STORY &gt; READ &gt; ASK &gt; EXPLORE</li></ul>	<p><b>6. SETTING GOALS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HOW WILL WE OBEY AND APPLY THE COMMAND?</li></ul> <p><b>7. PRACTICE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 SEC TESTIMONY   3 CIRCLES   OIKOS MAP</li></ul> <p><b>8. COMMISSION</b></p>

## NEW LESSON

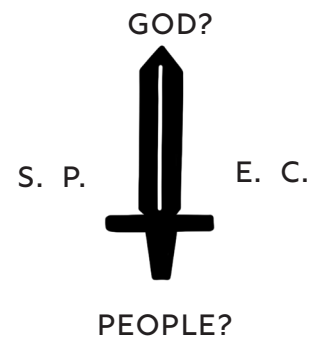
**READ THE COMMAND:** IN MATTHEW 10:16-22, JESUS SAYS...

**TELL THE STORY:** THE PERSECUTED CHURCH - ACTS 5:27-42

**READ THE STORY ALOUD**

**DISCOVER/ASK:** USE THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD TO DISCUSS THE STORY AND REVEAL ITS MEANING FOR OUR LIVES

- PRACTICE RETELLING THE STORY



### WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT GOD?

- Verses 38-39 remind us that if we do anything in our own strength, it will fail... but if we do something that is of the Lord, it cannot be stopped!

### WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE TELL US ABOUT PEOPLE?

- The religious spirit can cause us to choose tradition, preferences, and pride over the clear workings of the Lord in front of us. This can sometimes lead God's people to be persecuted by those who also claim to be of God--especially when the "norm" is challenged.
- [NOTE], the comment above is not a license to be angry with the church or church leadership just because they correct you or don't do something you want to do. The Scripture we have today is the guide for what is of God and what is not. According to this plumbline should things be examined and judged.
- Likewise, part of the reason why these religious leaders will be liable to judgment for what they did in this passage is because their Scriptures (the Old Testament) spoke of Jesus many, many times... yet they still crucified Him.

### ARE THERE ANY SINS IN THE PASSAGE TO AVOID?

- Standing in opposition to a movement of God.
- If you were to choose to obey man over God.

## ARE THERE ANY PROMISES IN THE PASSAGE THAT WE SHOULD BEHOLD?

- When we obey God, we are rewarded with His Spirit (verse 32)
- This is a concept that applies both to those who obey Him in salvation (thereby being sealed with the Spirit as a guarantee of our salvation--God within us), in addition to an ongoing love-pursuit of God in obedience to His commands where we experience His Spirit and presence upon us, as we read the early church in Acts experienced.

## ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES IN THE PASSAGE TO FOLLOW?

- The disciples' example to obey God no matter the consequences or threats.
- Remember, these were the same people that had put Jesus to death not too long before this account

## ARE THERE ANY COMMANDS IN THE PASSAGE TO BE OBEYED?

- Obey God rather than man... which helps us to endure and persevere when things get tough as a Christian

## EXPLORE MORE:

The reality is that perseverance can come in many shapes and forms. It includes the social awkwardness of doing or not doing something because of how we are supposed to live... all the way to having to make a choice to lay your life down because of what you believe. The need to disciple each other over the matter of perseverance is not limited just because Christians might not be getting killed for their faith where you are now. However, history has proved over and over and over that things always change... and they can change pretty quickly. There are many places in the world where Christians are severely persecuted for their faith (and even killed)--who knows whether the Lord might place you in that context somehow. We need to be prepared.

Also, we have no assurance of when the end of the Last Days will come before Jesus returns. However, we do know that in those times, sin and persecution will abound:

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

In this passage from Matthew 24:9-14 Jesus details a lot of really difficult things that believers will see around them. The unfortunate result is that those things will cause some of the love of the people to grow cold. As believers, we have to prepare ourselves with a determination to commit ourselves unto the Lord, in obedience and love, no matter what happens!

## SET GOALS

- Ask your disciple if there is anything in his/her life right now that they are having to persevere through. If so, take that as an opportunity to practice laying the situation before the Lord and intentionally asking His help to lovingly persevere through it.
- Additionally, if there are any difficult situations that your disciple is experiencing, but wouldn't necessarily call it persecution, use this week to practice partnering with the Lord in having supernatural love and grace in that situation.