

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

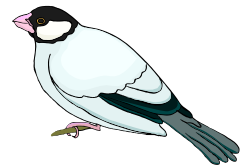
Matthew 10:16-42

Getting Started

Have you ever experienced persecution because of your faith in Christ? If so, describe your experience.

Digging In

1. **Read Matthew 10:16-25.** What do you think it means to be *shrewd as snakes and s innocent as doves*? Give an example of what this looks like today.
2. Why are we not to worry about what to say if we get arrested because of our faith in Christ? Does this mean we are not to be prepared to share the gospel? (cf. Col 4:5-6)
3. In v. 21 Jesus speaks of family divisions. What is the cause? Has the gospel caused divisions in your family?
4. How can we be sure that it is indeed the gospel that is causing offense, and not our offensive way of presenting the gospel? (cf. 1 Peter 3:15-16)
5. Why should we expect opposition? (vv. 24-25)
6. **Read Matthew 10:26-31.** Why are we not to fear those who can kill the body?
7. How does Jesus emphasize God's loving care and sovereign control of our lives?
8. **Read Matthew 10:32-42.** What does it mean to acknowledge Christ before men?
9. In practical terms, what does it mean for us to take up our cross and follow Christ?
10. Put verse 39 in your own words.



Getting Personal

- Have you died to live? Have you taken up your cross to follow Christ?
- Is there a specific way in which Christ is calling you to acknowledge him – to make it clear that you belong to him?