

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas
May 24, 2026 – Sent by the King: Faithful Under Pressure

Main Passage: Matthew 10:16-23

Main Idea:

As followers of Christ, we should expect opposition, endure pressure, and remain faithful under fire, trusting that the same Spirit who empowers witness will sustain us in suffering.

1) Expect Opposition for Following Christ - Matthew 10:16–18

- Jesus sends His followers out “like sheep among wolves.”
- Opposition should not surprise the believer.
- The “wolves” may include:
 - Religious opposition
 - Cultural opposition
 - Legal and public opposition
- Faithfulness to Christ often brings resistance from the world.
- The world resists the truth of the Gospel.
- Standing on biblical truth may become costly.
- Followers of Jesus must remain:
 - Shrewd as serpents
 - Innocent as doves

Supporting Scriptures

- John 15:18–19, 2 Timothy 3:12

“Don’t be surprised when wolves act like wolves.”

2) Endure the Personal Cost of Discipleship - Matthew 10:21–22

- Persecution may become deeply personal.
- Even families may divide over Christ.
- Believers may face:
 - Rejection
 - Betrayal
 - Hatred
 - Isolation
- Saving faith is proven through endurance.
- Endurance does not earn salvation; it reveals genuine salvation.

- True believers are sustained by God through suffering.

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 12:51–53, Philippians 1:6, Romans 8:35–39

“Following Jesus won’t bring universal approval... but no one can separate you from the Christ who has called you.”

3) Respond with Spirit-Empowered Faithfulness - Matthew 10:19–20, 23

- Jesus commands believers not to fear.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers in moments of pressure.
- Christians are called to:
 - Be prepared
 - Speak truth faithfully
 - Trust the Spirit’s power
 - Use wisdom and discernment
- We are not self-powered; we are Spirit-empowered.
- God gives courage as well as words.
- There are no extra points for reckless ministry.

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Peter 3:15, Acts 4:8, Acts 6:9–10, 2 Timothy 1:7–8, Proverbs 15:28

“The mission is too important, Christ is too worthy, and eternity is too near for half-hearted discipleship.”

Bottom Line

When faithfulness to Christ becomes costly, we must stand firm, trust the Spirit, and keep going for the sake of the mission.

Personal Application

- Where have you been tempted to shrink back in your faith?
- Have you been silent when you should have spoken truth?
- Are you trusting your own strength instead of the Holy Spirit?
- What area of your life requires renewed courage and faithfulness today?