

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Kevin Queen discusses how to maintain faith during relational storms, particularly when facing rejection or opposition because of one's faith in Jesus. He emphasizes that believers shouldn't be surprised when they encounter resistance, as Jesus Himself warned about this in Matthew 5:11. Using Mark 6:1-6 and 14-29, Pastor Queen illustrates how Jesus faced rejection in His hometown of Nazareth and how John the Baptist was ultimately killed for speaking truth to King Herod.

The sermon highlights several key principles: our faith is only as strong as the people we surround ourselves with; cynicism and a critical spirit can prevent God's work; honor is the currency of the kingdom and withholding it limits what we can receive from others; and holding onto offense can lead to bitterness. Pastor Queen encourages believers to maintain resolve in the face of rejection, to let go of offenses, and to trust that God will provide strength when needed, just as He did for the early Christian martyrs.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather today to discuss how to stand firm in our faith during times of rejection and opposition, we ask for Your wisdom and guidance. Open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us through this discussion. Help us to be honest about the offenses we carry and the ways we might withhold honor from others. Give us the courage to face difficult conversations and the grace to forgive as You have forgiven us. May Your Spirit lead our time together. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What was your favorite childhood toy and why did you love it so much?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 5:11
2. Mark 6:3-6
3. Psalm 118:22
4. Proverbs 19:11

Questions

1. Pastor Kevin said, 'Our faith is only as strong as the people we surround ourselves with.' How have you experienced this truth in your own life?
2. In the sermon, we learned that the people of Nazareth took offense at Jesus because of their familiarity with Him. In what ways might familiarity with Jesus or church cause us to withhold honor from Him today?
3. The sermon mentioned that 'honor is the currency of the kingdom.' What does this mean to you, and how might withholding honor from others limit what God can do in our lives?

4. Pastor Kevin stated that 'how easily we are offended is an indication of our spiritual maturity.' Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. In what areas of your life might you be carrying offense toward someone else? What steps could you take to release that offense?
6. The sermon discussed how people can even become offended with God when things don't go as planned. Have you ever felt this way? How did you work through it?
7. What can we learn from the early Christian martyrs about standing firm in our faith despite opposition?
8. Pastor Kevin quoted Corrie Ten Boom saying God gives us strength 'just in time.' How have you experienced God providing what you needed at just the right moment?

Life Application

This week, identify one person toward whom you might be harboring offense or withholding honor. It could be someone in your family, workplace, church, or even God Himself. Take time to pray specifically about this relationship, asking God to help you release any bitterness and extend forgiveness. Then, take one practical step toward reconciliation or honoring that person. This might mean having a difficult conversation, writing a letter, performing an act of service, or simply changing how you speak about them to others. Remember that forgiveness is a process that brings freedom to your heart, even if the relationship isn't fully restored.

Key Takeaways

1. We shouldn't be surprised when we face opposition or rejection because of our faith; Jesus warned us this would happen.
2. Cynicism and a critical spirit can prevent God from working powerfully in our lives and communities.
3. Honor is the currency of the kingdom - when we withhold honor from others, we limit what we can receive from them.
4. How easily we are offended is an indication of our spiritual maturity.
5. Resolve is required to follow Jesus - we must keep going, keep loving, and keep serving regardless of how others treat us.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example You set in facing rejection with grace and continued love. Forgive us for the times we've withheld honor from You and others, and for the offenses we've nursed in our hearts. Help us to release bitterness and embrace the freedom that comes through forgiveness. Give us the courage to stand firm in our faith even when it's difficult, knowing that You provide strength just when we need it. May we be living stones in Your spiritual house, built together on the cornerstone that the world rejected. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can face opposition with love rather than fear. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.