**Opposition as Opportunity**

Acts 21-22

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matt. 5:10-12

**Three Principles of Persecution:**

1. Expect **O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** as a follower of Jesus

(21:11; 9:16; 20:23; 2 Corinthians 11:24-27; Matthew 5:10-12)

* Connect with Jesus by remembering His **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Philippians 3:10)

1. Accept **S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to help you grow (21:30-32,35)

* Reflect the character of Jesus in patient **E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2-4)

1. Seek Opportunities to **T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (20:24; 22:3,6,14-16)

* Share your story to introduce His story

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

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**Three Principles of Persecution:**

1. Expect **Opposition** as a follower of Jesus (21:11; 9:16; 20:23; 2 Cor. 11:24-27; Matt. 5:10-12)

* Connect with Jesus by remembering His **Suffering** (Php. 3:10)

1. Accept **Suffering** to help you grow (21:30-32,35)

* Reflect the character of Jesus in patient **Endurance** (Rom. 5:3-4; James 1:2-4)

1. Seek Opportunities to **Testify** (20:24; 22:3,6,14-16)

* Share your story to introduce His story

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4