MESSAGE #6

MESSAGE #6 NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

2. How can we live with boldness in the midst of opposition?

3. What is our hope even if the world hates us?

4. How are you going to take what God has taught you here at camp, back to our school?

MESSAGE #6 DEVO

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 15:18–23 (ESV)

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also."

DEVO

Read 2 Timothy 3:12 – What is the promise to those who follow Christ?

The definition of the word persecuted is someone who is treated with hostility or ill-treatment especially because of their religious beliefs. Persecution, whether heavy or light, is promised for all Christ followers. Our Savior was murdered, 11 out of the 12 disciples were murdered, and millions of Christians since. Although we are commanded to be a witness to the world, Jesus does not say that the world will always appreciate His truth, nor does He say they will even like us; He actually promises that the world will hate those who follow Him (1 John 3:12-13). Jesus never confuses or fools anyone into thinking that the Christian life is free from conflict or suffering.

Read Philippians 3:8-11 – Why does Paul say his suffering is worth it?

When someone becomes a Christian they are united with Jesus, including His rejection and persecution, but not only that, united with His reward (Matthew 5:10-12, John 16:33…take a few minutes and read those passages!). Surprisingly, Paul says that suffering is not something to be feared, but something that should bring us joy, not because he enjoys prison or beatings, but because it is when we are at our weakest that God decides to show Himself the strongest.

Have you ever experienced someone treated you poorly when trying to share Christ?
How did this affect your faith?

Do you feel like you are ready for the conflict that comes with following Jesus? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 28:18-20. *Notice that Jesus does not leave us alone, but remains with us.*

How does Jesus' presence affect the way you are able to live with boldness?

Take a couple minutes and pray that God would give you boldness and courage even if the world is against the message of Jesus. Specifically pray for the situations that you are going home to and the people you will be interacting with that you know might be combative towards the message of Jesus.