

Sunday, September 20, 2020
Pastor Matt Peek, FBC Moultrie

“When Adversaries Arise”

Ezra 4:1-24

Today’s BIG IDEA:

Whenever you pursue Jesus, the world will always push back.

1. As we follow Jesus, opposition will be _____
(v.1)

2. As we follow Jesus, opposition will _____
(v.2-24)

v.1-5	Opposition during the reign of Cyrus	538-530 BC
v.5	Opposition during the reign of Darius	522-520 BC
v.6	Opposition during the reign of Ahasuerus (Xerxes)	486-464 BC
v.7-23	Opposition during the reign of Artaxerxes	464-423 BC
v.24	The storyline returns to the reigns of Cyrus/Darius	538-520 BC

3. As we follow Jesus, opposition will _____
(v.2-24)

A. Adversaries will try to _____ your obedience (v.1-3)
(2 Kings 17:24-41)

B. Adversaries will try to _____ your obedience (v.4-5)

C. Adversaries will try to _____ your obedience (v.6-16)

D. Adversaries will try to _____ your obedience (v.17-24)

4. As we follow Jesus, opposition will not _____
(v.24)

A. God is _____ even when he allows us to be opposed.
(Job 1:6-12)

B. Opposition to Christ is a regular and lifelong reality.
(2 Timothy 3:12)

C. The level of our opposition is directly correlated to the level of our _____.
(John 15:18-20)

D. Our suffering makes us more like Jesus.
(1 Peter 4:12-14)

E. Our opponents are not the enemy. They are the _____.
(Matthew 5:44)

F. Jesus is the _____ King and he will have the final word.
(John 16:33)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe a time when you were actively opposed because of your obedience to Christ. How did you respond?
2. Think of a story of a Christian martyr. How does their testimony encourage you?
3. How do you typically view those who oppose you? How does the gospel compel us to respond to them?