DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question

Have you ever experienced opposition or dislike from others and attributed it to your faith? Share your experience.

Key Takeaways

- 1.) Not all opposition we face is because of our faith in Jesus.
- 2.) Sometimes people dislike us because of our own actions or attitudes, not because of Christ.
- 3.) True persecution for faith comes when we accurately reflect the values of God's kingdom.
- 4.) We need to discern whether our difficulties are a result of following Jesus or following our own will.

Discussion Questions

- 1.) How can we distinguish between opposition due to our faith and opposition due to our own behavior?
- 2.) Pastor Zach mentioned a "hero complex theology." What does this mean, and how might it manifest in our lives?
- 3.) Discuss the difference between "carrying our cross" as Jesus intended and how we sometimes misapply this concept.
- 4.) How can we ensure we're representing all of Christ's values, not just those that align with our personal agendas?
- 5.) What does it mean to produce "fruit of the Spirit" versus "fruit of the flesh"? How can we evaluate which we're producing?
- 6.) The sermon mentions that the narrow path is difficult. How have you experienced this in your own faith journey?

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Practical Application

- 1.) Self-Reflection: This week, when you face opposition or dislike, pause and honestly evaluate if it's because of your faith or your own actions.
- 2.) Fruit Check: Make a list of the "fruits" your life is producing. Are they more aligned with the fruits of the Spirit or the flesh?
- 3.) Kingdom Values: Identify one value of God's kingdom that you struggle to represent well. Make a plan to grow in that area.
- 4.) Scripture Study: Read John 15:18-25 in context. Reflect on how Jesus explains the world's hatred towards Him and His followers.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help us to accurately represent Your kingdom. Give us discernment to recognize when opposition is due to our faith and when it's a result of our own shortcomings. Guide us to produce fruit that glorifies You and draws others to Your light. In Jesus' name, Amen.