

Opposed by Men, Approved by God

A Reflection on Opposition in Ministry

Reflections Prayer, Repentance and the Spiritual Life WhatsApp post, 18 June 2026

Acts 5:41

Recently, I read an article that left me deeply moved. It reflected on a truth that many believers experience but do not always understand at once: when we are earnestly engaged in the Lord's work, opposition often comes from unexpected quarters. Sometimes criticism, misunderstanding, or even unfair treatment can discourage us. Yet Scripture repeatedly reminds us that resistance is not necessarily a sign that we are on the wrong path; at times, it is evidence that we are faithfully walking in the footsteps of Christ.

The apostles understood this well. After being threatened, beaten, and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus, they did not retreat into self-pity or resentment. Instead, they departed from the presence of the council, "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41). Their joy was not rooted in the suffering itself, but in the privilege of serving their Lord. They recognised that no opposition could diminish the honour of belonging to Christ, or the eternal value of the work entrusted to them.

When we face unreasonable opposition while serving the Lord, our natural response may be frustration or disappointment. Yet the Gospel invites us to look beyond the immediate circumstance, and to fix our eyes on Christ. If our motives are pure, and our service is offered for His glory, we can continue with confidence, grace, and even joy. The Lord sees, the Lord knows, and the Lord rewards. Therefore, let us not lose heart, but rejoice in Christ, and remain steadfast in the work He has called us to do.