

## Do Not Be Surprised

1 Peter 4:12-19

### Outline

“Do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you...” (4:12)

- *Fiery trial? Persecution?* To be honest, I *would* be surprised if and when this comes upon me!
- We need to look carefully at examples of persecution in the Bible—to understand why it’s so common... so we won’t be surprised!

Three persecution stories in the Bible:

1. Riot in Ephesus against Paul. (Acts 19:23-41)
  - What was the reason for this persecution? See 19:25-26.
  - What can we learn about persecution from this episode?
2. The Martyrdom of John the Baptist. (Matthew 14:1-12)
  - What was the reason for this persecution?  
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  - What can we learn about persecution from this episode?
3. Riot in Jerusalem against Paul. (Acts 21:27-22:25)
  - What was the reason for this persecution? See Acts 22:21-22. \_\_\_\_\_
  - What can we learn about persecution from this episode?

A fourth persecution story: “But rejoice insofar as you share **Christ’s** sufferings...” (1 Peter 4:13)

- What was the reason for Jesus’ persecution? See John 3:19, 7:7, 15:18-19.
- What can we learn about persecution from this?

Persecution is not the final word!

- Good news for those persecuted for Christ. (1 Peter 4:13b-14)
- Fearful words (1 Peter 4:17-18)

Applying this passage from Peter:

- Do not be surprised... (4:12)
- Entrust your soul... (4:19)

### Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. “Do not be surprised...” Would you be surprised at “fiery trials” of persecution? Why?
2. A commentator on 1 Peter has said that this book teaches that sin is *avoiding the suffering to which you were called*. Explain this.
3. How are you tempted to avoid low-level “persecution” in social situations? Be specific.
4. How can you fulfill 4:19 in these situations?