



## Road to Hope: Manner & Motivation

1 Peter 3:13-17

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17 together:

*Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*

### MANNER

Punctuation seems to be a lost ability in our online world of texting. But, punctuation matters. Consider the following:

Let's eat grandma! Vs. Let's eat, grandma!

Eat your dinner. Vs. Eat. You're dinner.

I want to thank my parents, Tiffany and God Vs. I want to thank my parents, Tiffany, and God.

As we consider the hope that is "within us," we need to remember that how we communicate the gospel is important. Your relationship with Jesus Christ is both personal and public. Don't allow the manner or motivation of your gospel witness to ruin the gospel message!

*...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...*

- ? What are some ways our manner can undermine our delivery of the gospel?
- ? What defensiveness look like or sound like?

**“Gentle” and “respectful” are laughed at in American culture. Those are descriptive words for people who are thought weak and soft. But that is not biblical.**

- ? How did Jesus display gentleness?
- ? How about times when Jesus was not gentle? Think of times Jesus spoke hard words to people...who were they?
- ? Why, do you think, Jesus spoke as He did to these people?

**Delayed obedience is disobedience.**

- ? What excuses do we make for delaying our witness with unbelievers?
- ? What is at the root of these excuses?

## **MOTIVATION**

Our motivation should NOT be for acceptance and popularity. Neither should we be motivated to be eloquent. We should be motivated to witness because we are so enamored with Jesus and what He has given to us that we tell anyone we can about Him!

- ? What do you need God to change in you to become a faithful witness?
- ? Who do you want to share the gospel with? Are you praying for that person right now?
- ? How will you witness to that person?
- ? When will you witness to that person?

Faithful ambassadors for Jesus will be intentional in their witness life! We need to be in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to prepare us and prompt us for witnessing opportunities. We need to be in prayer for specific individuals with whom we want to share the gospel, asking the Holy Spirit to convict and illumine them.