

No. 8 Be Loyal, as Jesus Was (Symposium)
 -When Persecuted

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video. Each part in this symposium will address (1) how our loyalty is challenged, (2) how Jesus maintained his loyalty, and (3) how we can maintain ours]

HOW IS OUR LOYALTY TO JEHOVAH CHALLENGED WHEN WE ARE PERSECUTED?
(1 min.)

Jesus was persecuted in many ways, both verbally and physically
He was ridiculed, spat on, scourged, and falsely accused of
drunkenness, gluttony, and fellowship with demons
Satan wanted to weaken Jesus' confidence in God's love and protection
and thus undermine Jesus' loyalty

HOW DID JESUS MAINTAIN HIS LOYALTY WHEN PERSECUTED? (3 min.)

Jesus focused, not on persecution, but on the accomplishing of
Jehovah's will (Joh 17:1, 4)
He sought approval from God, not from his opposers (Joh 8:15-18)
Jesus refused to retaliate against his persecutors [Read 1 Peter
2:21-23]

He recognized his Father's role as the just Avenger
At times, Jesus removed himself from danger (Joh 11:53, 54)

HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN OUR LOYALTY WHEN PERSECUTED? (3 min.)

As Jesus' disciples, we must be prepared to face persecution
(2Ti 3:12)
Root out attitudes that Satan could exploit (w03 2/1 11 ¶13-14)
Be aware of God's love; this is a great protection (Ro 8:32)
Imitate Jesus' attitude toward persecutors
Being mild is more persuasive than using harsh words (Pr 25:15)
Resist any urge to retaliate [Read Romans 12:19, 20]
Leave it to Jehovah to right all wrongs
It may take time to see the positive effects of pursuing a peaceful
course, but it will ultimately succeed [Read Romans 12:21]
In the following dramatization, note how a person can show loyalty
when persecuted

VIDEO (3 min.)

BE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN YOUR LOYALTY WHEN PERSECUTED (2 min.)

Reinforce your love and trust in God now
Keep the real issues in mind; focus on the benefits of endurance
Avoid confrontation when possible, but never compromise
Like Jesus, be peaceable and keep doing good
Pray earnestly, and draw strength from the brotherhood (1Pe 2:17;
5:9)

Jehovah will never abandon his loyal ones (Ps 16:11; 139:10)
Brother _____ will now develop the theme "Be Loyal, as Jesus Was
-When Tempted"

TO BE COVERED IN 12 MINUTES