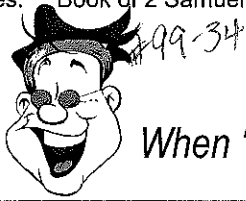


Text: 2 Samuel 6:16-23  
Topic: Persecution. Zeal.  
Series: Book of 2 Samuel

Pacific Coast Church  
September 25 & 26, 1999  
Pastor Mike



## Tips for Zealots

*When 'The Jesus Freaks' Meet 'The Respectable Americans'*



1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.16-20)

2. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.21-22)

3. Trust \_\_\_\_\_ (v.23)

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church. For more information about groups at PCC that use these questions as the basis for their weekly discussion please call the church office at (949) 489-2600.*

1. Criticism hurts, especially when you are criticized for doing what is right. Because Christ has called us to live holy lives in an unholy world, he also called us to be the target of criticism. In what ways have you been criticized for doing, saying, or believing what is right?

Sometimes we are *not* considered by others to be "odd" or zealous in our Christian life because we have conformed too much to this world (Romans 12:2). Read John 15:18-20. After reading those verses, in what areas of your life are you convinced you need to be more zealous for Christ?

2. What are some "natural reactions" we tend to have when we are the target of criticism?

Summarize in your own words what Jesus says our reaction to this kind of opposition should be in Matthew 5:11-12.

What does 1 Peter 4:16 tell us about how we should and shouldn't respond?

3. Describe a situation in which you backed down from doing what was right because of the pressure that came from people that were critical of you.

What was the outcome of that situation?

In what specific ways can other Christians help you to hold your ground against critical opposition?

Recount a situation in your Christian life in which you were the critic opposing someone who was trying to do the godly thing. What were the contributing factors that led you to be a critic instead of an encourager?

It's a classic... and it may help you see your current "persecution" against a helpful backdrop of those who have stood firm in the face of incredible opposition. If you haven't read it (or haven't read it lately), you ought to:

**The Foxe's Book  
of Martyrs**  
by John Foxe

If you have, try this one:

**By Their Blood:  
Christian Martyrs of  
the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**  
by James & Marti Hefley