



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 111 - Politically Incorrect (Mark 7:1-23)

### Dealing with Opposition

The place where Jesus experienced His greatest opposition was Jerusalem, where the Jewish religious leaders were centered. But even when He preached far away to the north in Galilee they sent spies and delegations to undermine and challenge Him and turn the people against Him.

Most of us also have a place where we face our greatest opposition. It can be work, school, church, home or even in our own mind.

- Where is your place of greatest opposition?
- Describe the opposition you face there.

There are certainly diplomatic ways where we can speak as smoothly as possible as we try to avoid needlessly offending others.

- Describe a conflict at home, church or work that could have been avoided with a little more consideration or diplomacy.
- Is there a general rule you follow that guides you to know how to speak in any given situation?
- How do you determine whether it is time to speak gently or to draw a line in the sand?

When Jesus came across people who were caught in error He treated them differently depending on the situation. To those who genuinely wanted to serve God but were ignorant or misguided Jesus spoke gently and patiently corrected them (see Mark 5:39).

- Describe some people in your church, family, neighborhood or workplace that need gentle, humble correction.
- Describe someone who was approached harshly when he or she should have been approached gently.
- How can you reach out to someone who has been "burned" by a harsh approach in the past?

### Is It Wise to Smack a Hornet's Nest?

Things were very different when Jesus approached people He knew were leading others astray, especially people who should have known better. I'm sure Peter wasn't too happy to be rebuked by Jesus with the words ... "Get behind Me Satan!" (Mark 8:33b). And the Pharisees and scribes definitely weren't very happy when Jesus laid into them in Mark 7:6-13.

- Why would Jesus be so politically incorrect and antagonize the Jewish leaders when He could have been more restrained with them?
- What is the problem with speaking diplomatically to everyone and never confronting someone who is walking blindly in error?
- How do you decide when it's time to be confrontational?