

**Presence:
Being with Bullies
Matthew 26:47-68**



Bullying is the use of force, coercion, or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate, or intimidate. The behavior is often **repeated and habitual**. One essential prerequisite is the perception of an **imbalance of physical or social power**.

Outrage Culture: a form of public humiliation that aims to hold individuals and groups accountable for actions perceived to be offensive by other individuals or groups, who then call attention to this behavior, usually on social media.



**As God in the flesh, how did
Jesus maintain his
boundaries and stay
connected with those who
wanted to harm him so that
God's will could be
accomplished without Jesus
becoming a bully himself?**

**How can I carry God's
presence into an
outrage culture filled
with bullies and
bullying?**

Jesus shows us how.

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1. Jesus set clear boundaries with bullies to protect the innocent, to reveal the truth, and to accomplish God's purposes in God's ways.



**Jesus pushed back
on bullies to protect
the innocent.**

26:51-53, 56

**Jesus pushed back
on bullies to reveal
the truth.**

26:50, 55, 64

**Jesus pushed back on
bullies to ensure that
God's purposes were
accomplished
according to God's
character and plan.**

26:51-54, 56



**How am I bringing
God's presence into an
outrage culture to
protect the innocent, to
reveal God's truth, and
to accomplish God's
purposes?**

2. Jesus never became a bully. Instead, he accomplished God's purposes through the strength and power of humble service and sacrificial acts of love.



**26:47, Jesus was
easily found by
Judas.**

**26:50, Jesus allowed
himself to be seized
and arrested.**

**26:52-53, Jesus did
not fight back with all
the power at his
disposal.**

**26:63, Jesus did not
debate the false
witnesses.**

**26:66-68, Jesus
allowed them to beat
him, humiliate and
insult him, and put him
to death on the cross to
save us from our sin.**

**Jesus trusted his Father
enough to complete his
mission to obtain our
salvation, not through the
brutal defeat of God's
enemies, but through
humble service and
sacrificial love.**

Matthew 5:38-48

Romans 12:17-21



**Am I accomplishing
God's purposes
through my humble
service and
sacrificial love to
those who don't
deserve it?**

**How are you bringing
God's presence into
an outrage culture to
protect the innocent,
to reveal God's truth,
and to accomplish
God's purposes?**



**How are you
accomplishing God's
purposes through
your humble service
and sacrificial love to
those who don't
deserve it?**

