

Lambs in the Midst of Wolves – Part 2
Identifying with Jesus in a Hostile World

Luke 10:1-24; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-12-17

Introduction

Let's read Luke 10:1-24 again. Our focus right now is on verse 3:

Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. – Luke 10:3

'Lambs' and 'Wolves'?

'Lambs' do not represent perfect people or 'all cleaned up' people but people who are 'domesticated' or submitted to the will of God through faith in Christ. 'Wolves' do not represent people who are pure evil or are the worst people around, but people who are potentially dangerous because they are 'wild' or hostile to the claims of God on their lives and not submitted to Him.

This is a call to risk rejection and even harm.

This would be like going to Sesame Street and saying, 'I send you out as 'cookies' in the midst of 'cookie monsters'!

So what is the main point we are arguing for from this text (Luke 10:1-24)?

We are to be happy, holy, humble 'lambs' who pursue the happiness of 'wolves' in God.

Last week our focus was on this truth:

God wants us to pursue our happiness. – Isaiah 55:1-3

Our focus today is on this truth:

If you won't be holy, you can't be happy.

1. God is perfectly happy.

- a. Psalm 16:11
- b. Psalm 115:3
- c. Matthew 25:21

2. God is perfectly holy.

- a. Isaiah 6:3
- b. Revelation 4:8
- c. 1 John 1:5

3. Happiness in God and holiness go together.

- a. Psalm 45:7
- b. Acts 13:52
- c. 1 Thessalonians 1:6

4. Man thinks he can be happy without being holy.

- a. Psalm 24:3-6
- b. Matthew 5:6

5. Holiness is not simply self-denial or the avoiding of certain things.

- a. Luke 11:42

6. Holiness is the pursuit of the good of others, ie. Love.

- a. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
- b. Galatians 5:22

Are you resting in Jesus?

Are you hoping in God?

Are you pursuing love?

‘Therefore, when I say that the sovereignty of God is the foundation of His happiness, I do not ignore or minimize the anger and grief God can express against evil. But neither do I infer from this wrath and sorrow that God is a frustrated God who cannot keep His creation under control. He has designed from all eternity, and is infallibly forming with every event, a magnificent mosaic of redemptive history.⁶ The contemplation of this mosaic (with both its dark and bright tiles) fills His heart with joy. And if our Father’s heart is full of deep and unshakable happiness, we may be sure that when we seek our happiness in Him, we will not find Him “out of sorts” when we come. We will not find a frustrated, gloomy, irritable Father who wants to be left alone, but a Father whose heart is so full of joy that it spills over onto all those (Christian Hedonists) who are thirsty.’ – John Piper, *Desiring God*