

## Lesson 1: Expect Persecution but Don't Worry!

Matthew 10:16-33

- I. **YOU HAVE BEEN SENT** (16)—*I am sending you*
  - A. **Jesus Sends** We don't choose our mission or appoint ourselves to carry it out.
    1. Those who come to Jesus for salvation must own Him as Lord.
    2. Jesus sends us where He pleases, by whatever means He chooses.
  - B. **Sent Out** Jesus does not intend us to isolate ourselves from the world.
  - C. **Animal Imagry**
    1. **Sheep Among Wolves**—*This is a dangerous mission.*
    2. **Serpents And Doves**—*Be wise and innocent. (Don't be naïve or gullible!)*  
(Ps 18:25-26; 1 Cor 3:1; Eph 5:11). Teach this generation to think and to discern!
- II. **YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED**—*They will...You will be...When they...* Persecution is promised.
  - A. **They Will Persecute You**
    1. **Drag you before Civic Authority** (17-18)—civic persecution
    2. **Flog you in their Synagogues** (17)—religious persecution
    3. **Betray you within the Family** (21)—family persecution
    4. **Hate you in Society** (22) —all kinds of people, widespread societal persecution
    5. **Malign you** (25)—verbal persecution
  - B. **Move on** (23)—flee from town to town, and the gospel goes with you.
- III. **YOU ARE AMBASSADORS** (18b, 24-25)—*For my sake, To bear witness, servant like master*
  - A. **Identified with Jesus** (24-25; Ps 69:9) They will respond to us the way they respond to Him.
  - B. **Witness to the World** (18) Persecution provides a podium to the world.

IV. **YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY**—*So have no fear of them...*

A. **The Holy Spirit will help you.** (19-20)

1. **You will be given what to say**—God will speak through you.
2. **In that hour**—Grace will be given *when you need* it, not ahead of time.

B. **All will be revealed.** (26-27)

1. **You are on the side of truth.** You are on the side that wins.
2. **They will be exposed.** They might prosper now, but their deeds will be revealed.

C. **Their power is limited.** (28)

1. **Don't fear men.** *They can only kill the body.*
2. **Do fear God.** *He can kill the body **and** cast the soul into Hell!*  
If you properly fear God, you don't need to fear anyone or anything else.

D. **You are precious to God.** (29-31)

1. **He is Sovereign.** He even keeps track of the sparrows.
  - a. **God's value of small things**
  - b. **God's attention to detail** (Ps 139:2-3)
2. **He is your Father.** You are much more valuable than a sparrow to Him!

V. **YOU WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED** (32-33) *I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven*

A. **Those Who Deny Me**—They value friendship of the world over friendship with Christ.

B. **The Friendship of Jesus**—For those who join Him in His suffering and rejection, not merely in His blessing and popularity.

C. **The Welcome of His Father**—into His eternal kingdom because you are a friend of His Son.