

NOTES

I. I am Sending You Out as Sheep in the Midst of Wolves (Matthew 10:16a)

- A. Jesus Himself sends out his disciples...
 - 1. With authority (Matthew 10:1)
 - 2. With a plan and a message (Matthew 10:5-7)
- B. ...as sheep...
 - 1. Not lost like the sheep of Israel (Matthew 10:6)
 - 2. Not harassed and helpless like the shepherd-less crowds (Matthew 9:36; John 10:11)
- C. ...in the midst of wolves
 - 1. Cloaked in disguise (Matthew 7:15-20; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
 - 2. Cloaked in darkness (John 10:7-15; Acts 20:29-32)

II. So Be Wise as Serpents and Innocent as **Doves (Matthew 10:16b)**

- A. The wisdom of the serpent
 - 1. A wise serpent does not seek attention (Matthew 10:17)
 - 2. A wise serpent is always aware (Matthew 10:14, 23; Romans 16:19)
- B. The innocence of the dove
 - 1. Do no harm to others; If you suffer, let your only offense be that you follow Christ (1 Peter 4:12-19)
 - 2. Live as lights in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation (Deuteronomy 32:5; Philippians 2:14-16)

III. Persecution Will Come

- A. This is certain (2 Timothy 3:12-13)
- B. We must endure (2 Timothy 4:3-5)
- C. Have no fear (Matthew 10:26-28; 28:18-20)

Sermon Reflections 1. Why did Jesus knowingly send his disciples into a hostile world to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of heaven? Why does he still send his followers into a hostile world today? 2. Why did Jesus urge his disciples to be aware of the dangers they might face from those "outside" the faith and those who claim to be "inside" the faith? What can we learn from that? 3. Why do we need to be both wise/shrewd and innocent/harmless? What would happen if we were only one of those? 4. Why is it a comfort to know the One by whose authority we are sent out? **MATTHEW 10:16**

Behold, I am sending you

out as sheep in the midst

of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as

doves.