

# Sheep among Wolves

Matthew 10:16-23



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## A Sobering Metaphor (16)

*Behold,  
I am sending you out as sheep  
in the midst of wolves,  
  
so be wise as serpents  
and innocent as doves.*



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## A Serious Warning (17-18)

*Beware of men,  
for they will deliver you over to courts  
and flog you in their synagogues,  
and you will be dragged before governors and kings  
for my sake,  
  
to bear witness before them  
and the Gentiles.*



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## An Encouraging Promise (19-20)

*When they deliver you over,  
do not be anxious how you are to speak  
or what you are to say,  
for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.  
  
For it is not you who speak,  
but the Spirit of your Father  
speaking through you.*



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**A Sad Reality (21-22)**

*Brother will deliver brother over to death,  
and the father his child,  
and children will rise against parents  
and have them put to death,  
and you will be hated by all for my name's sake.*

*But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*



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**A Perplexing Prophecy (23)**

*When they persecute you in one town,  
flee to the next,  
  
for truly, I say to you,  
you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel  
before the Son of Man comes.*



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**Application**



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As we seek to do good and proclaim the Gospel, may be soberly realize the opposition we too face.



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May we pray and labor to be sheep who are wise and innocent in our dealing with others, especially those who oppose.



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As we speak to others, whether in ordinary conversations or in extreme circumstances, may we have a conscious prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit to speak through us.



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May we be committed to faithfulness to Jesus, due to His worthiness, to endure to the end...whatever that end may be.



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May we live daily in the reality of the Son of Man's rule and reign over all things, and take the Gospel to the Jew first, and also to all the nations.



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