

# The Gospel of Matthew

***“Sheep in the Midst of Wolves”***  
**Matthew 10:16-23**

## Matthew 10:16-23 (NASB)

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves.

But beware of men; for they will deliver you up to the courts, and scourge you in their synagogues; and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak.

## Matthew 10:16-23 (NASB)

For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death.

And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who endures to the end who will be saved.

But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish going through the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes.

## Sheep Among Wolves

### 1. Expectation of Hostility

➤ *shocking image!*

- being a faithful witness of Jesus brings hostility, opposition, even violence
- we are vulnerable and without natural defenses

## Sheep Among Wolves

### 2. Sources of Hostility

➤ *“beware of men”; “hated by all”*

- religious opposition
- governmental opposition
- family opposition

## Sheep Among Wolves

### 3. Responses to Hostility

➤ *“shrewd as serpents, innocent as doves”*

- continuing to be a faithful witness in the midst of opposition
- fleeing opposition when it is prudent

## Sheep Among Wolves

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### 4. Reasons for Hostility

➤ *“on account of My name”*

- the message of Jesus is naturally offensive to those who love the darkness
- the exclusivity of Jesus' demands are an affront to a self-centered, pluralistic age