



THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW



Sheep Among Wolves

Matthew 10:16–23



Matthew 10:16–23

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”



Matthew 10:16–23

²¹ “Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 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.”



Instructions for the Mission

Matthew 10:5–15

1. Defining your mission field (10:5–6)
2. Pursuing sinners and sufferers (10:6)
3. Giving out the good news (10:7–8)
4. Trusting God and traveling light (10:9–10)
5. Looking for the open door (10:11–13)
6. Fearing God, not people (10:14–15)



1. Street smarts with a pure heart (10:16–18)

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¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.”



Genesis 3:1

Now the **serpent** was more **crafty**
than any other beast of the field...



Matthew 3:7

“You brood of **vipers!** Who warned you to **flee** from the wrath to come?”



1 Peter 4:15–16

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.



2. Peace in the face of judgment (10:19–20)

¹⁹ “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. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”



Exodus 3:10–12

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”



Matthew 10:20

“For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”



2 Timothy 4:16–17

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.



3. Perseverance until the end (10:21–23)

²¹ “Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 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.”



1 Corinthians 15:1–2

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,
² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.



Hebrews 3:14

For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.



2 Timothy 2:12

...if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us.



Romans 8:29–30

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined...

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.



Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



Jeremiah 32:40

“I will make with them an everlasting covenant,
that I will not turn away from doing good to them.
And I will put the fear of me in their hearts,
that they may not turn from me.”



Hebrews 12:1–3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.



Matthew 10:23

- When you're persecuted, go to the next town.
- Time is short, and you won't get to finish this particular mission in Israel.
- Before you can finish, "the Son of Man" will "come," and things will change dramatically.



Daniel 7:13–14

13 “I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
**there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.”**



Daniel 7:13–14

14 “And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.”



Matthew 28:18

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”



Matthew 10:23

- When you're persecuted, go to the next town.
- Time is short, and you won't get to finish this particular mission in Israel.
- Before you can finish, I will die, rise, and "come" before God in heaven to receive universal authority and launch my *worldwide* mission by my Spirit.



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