



Chapter 10:16-23

- Mat. 10:16 “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.
- Mat. 10:17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.
- Mat. 10:18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.
- Mat. 10:19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;
- Mat. 10:20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.
- Mat. 10:21 “Now 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.
- Mat. 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.
- Mat. 10:23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Observations & Discussion

1. Why do you think Jesus sent us—His disciples out as “*sheep in the midst of wolves*” rather than sending us out as **Irish Wolfhounds** in the midst of wolves?

2. In vs. 17 Jesus said to “*beware of men*”. How are the people of the world like wolves? Why is the world a dangerous place for those who follow Jesus?

3. In vs. 16. Jesus said, “*Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves*”—describe what that would look like in your life if you were serving in a hostile environment.

4. In verses 17-20 Jesus describes those who would persecute His disciples and how His disciples should respond. Provide an example from the book of Acts where we see this play out.

5. Jesus warned us that we may also face hostility from our own family. Why might your family not be happy to hear that you have become a Christian?

6. In vs. 21 Jesus tells us that some of His disciples would be put to death for their faith. But in vs. 23 He advises them to run if they face persecution. How do you know whether or not you’re supposed to stand and suffer persecution or to run? Can you think of an example in Scripture for each situation?