

Matthew 10:16-31

- **REVIEW...**

- o **FIRST** - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
- o **SECOND** – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
- o Twelve Men...
 - Jesus had just finished saying - PRAY the Lord send workers into His HARVEST...
 - And the very next thing He did - was PRAY who to send to reach the LOST...
 - He chose TWELVE men - the APOSTLES - and SENT them out to preach the Gospel!
- o Sending the Apostles...
 - Jesus sent them to the Lost sheep of Israel - into their neighborhood...
 - There were NOT to charge for their message - FREELY they had received - FREELY give...
 - But they were also NOT to bring anything with them - no MONEY - extra CLOTHES...
 - Because God was the one who SENT them - and He would provide for ALL their needs!
- o Sowing Seed...
 - When they came into a CITY - they were to inquire who was WORTHY [open to the Gospel]
 - Those who were HUNGRY - they were to stay and DISCIPLE...
 - If they were REJECTED - they were to KICK off the DUST - and move on!

- **1ST – PERSECUTION IS COMING... vs. 16-23**

- o 1st - Behold... vs. 16
 - Wolves...
 - Behold - I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves!
 - Having given instructions to the TWELVE as He sent them out into the Harvest...
 - Jesus turns to a hard truth - they will be PERSECUTED for the Gospel...
 - LOOK [imperative] - they needed to KNOW who they were being sent [ἀποστέλλω] into...
 - They were SHEEP - going out to share the LOVE of God - with WOLVES...
 - They were PREY being sent by God into the midst of PREDATORS!
 - I heard a missionary once share how he was excited to go onto the mission field...
 - He thought of the world as LOST sheep - that just needed to meet the Good Shepherd...
 - Assuming once he gave them the Gospel - they would gratefully receive Jesus...
 - But when he arrived - what he found was CALLOUS sinners - who did NOT want the truth...
 - He was not going to reach SHEEP - he had been sent into a pack of hungry WOLVES!
 - Serpents...
 - Therefore be wise as serpents!
 - Therefore - knowing WHO they were being sent to share the Gospel with [wolves]
 - They had to [imperative] be as SMART [wise] as the [ὁ] SERPENTS...
 - SERPENT [ὄφις] - referring back to the GARDEN of Eden [satan] - **I Corinthians 11:3**
 - There are not that many LIES the SERPENT uses to deceive...
 - He tries to get people to live for this life [bread] - rather than for God - **Matthew 4:3**
 - He tries to get people to QUESTION the WORD of God - **Matthew 4:6**
 - He tries to convince people that his way is better - **Matthew 4:9**
 - We need to KNOW how our enemy works - we need to be as WISE as he is...
 - Because the world has been DECEIVED - they are BLINDED by the god of this world...
 - But they are NOT our enemy - they are deceived by the ENEMY...
 - We have been sent to set them FREE from his POWER!
 - Doves...
 - Harmless as doves!

- HARMLESS [ἀκέραιος] - to be PURE - not compromised by this world...
- DOVE - referring back to the Baptism of Jesus - the Holy Spirit - **Matthew 3:16**
- If SHEEP went out in their own STRENGTH - to reach WOLVES - it would not end well...
- But the TWELVE were being SENT out in the POWER of the HOLY Spirit!
- If we have 1000 watt light bulb – it has the potential to LIGHT up a dark room...
- But unless we plug it into the wall – give it POWER – it does NOT give off light!
- When was the last time we shared Jesus with someone – told them the Good News...
- We may NEVER have told anyone – because we have no POWER!
- We are called to be a light in a dark world – **Matthew 5:14**
- But we need the Holy Spirit to LIGHT us up – give us the POWER to shine for Jesus!
- Rhinoceros...
 - I had a pastor once tell me he likes to add one more ANIMAL to this list...
 - We are SHEEP who are SENT to free the WOLVES from the SNAKE by the power of the DOVE...
 - But we need the skin of a RHINOCEROS - because we are going to get HIT!
- o 2nd - Beware... vs. 17-20 [also **Mark 13:9-13** - **Luke 21:12-17**]
 - Scourged... vs. 17
 - Beware of men - for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues!
 - Jesus continued by telling the TWELVE what the WOLVES would do to them...
 - BEWARE [imperative] - because men would have them ARRESTED [deliver]
 - They would turn them over to the SANHEDRIN [counsel] - highest court of the Jews...
 - They would SCOURGE [beat] them in their SYNAGOGUES!
 - When Peter and John were arrested by the SANHEDRIN [for a second time]
 - They were BEATEN [flayed] and told to NOT speak in the name of Jesus - **Acts 5:40**
 - But the APOSTLES rejoiced - because this is exactly what Jesus said would happen!
 - **Acts 5:42** - “[And] they did not stop teaching and preaching Jesus!”
 - Judged... vs. 18
 - You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake.
 - As a testimony to them and to the Gentiles!
 - It would not be limited to just the JEWS - they would stand before GENTILES [ἔθνος]
 - They were to use it as the opportunity to give their TESTIMONY...
 - TESTIMONY [μαρτύριον] - where we get the word MARTYR [die for our faith]!
 - This is the progression we see in the life of the Apostle Paul...
 - When he was FIRST arrested - he was first taken before the SANHEDRIN - **Acts 23:1**
 - THEN he was taken before GOVERNORS [Felix and Festus] - **Acts 24-25**
 - FINALLY he was taken before KINGS [Agrippa and Caesar Nero] – **Acts 26-28**
 - But every time he used it as an opportunity to PREACH Jesus to the NATIONS...
 - Even though it ultimately costs him his life [Nero] - **II Timothy 4:6**
 - Do not worry... vs. 19-20
 - 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.
 - For it is not you who speak - but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you!
 - When they were ARRESTED [passive] - they were NOT to THINK about what to SAY...
 - Because in the HOUR they needed it - God would give [indicative] them the WORDS...
 - The HOLY Spirit [of the Father] - would be the one who would SPEAK through them!
 - The FIRST time Peter and John were ARRESTED [healing lame man]
 - Peter - FULL of the HOLY Spirit - stood up before the SANHEDRIN [counsel]
 - And BOLDLY told them - Jesus whom they CRUCIFIED - was the ONLY way to be SAVED!

- **Acts 4:13** - "When they saw the boldness of Peter and John - and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men - they marveled. They realized that they had been with Jesus."
- When the WOLVES attack - we do NOT need to worry...
- Because we already KNOW how they will RESPOND - they will try and SILENCE us...
- But we are instead to use the opportunity to be share our TESTIMONY with them...
- And we do NOT need to prepare our message - or THINK about what to SAY...
- Because it will NOT come from us - in that moment the SPIRIT will speak through us!

o 3rd - Endure... vs. 21-22

- Family feud... vs. 21
 - Now brother will deliver up brother to death - and a father his child.
 - Children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death!
 - It will NOT just be POLITICIANS who will ATTACK...
 - BROTHERS would turn on each other - have them ARRESTED and sentenced to DEATH...
 - FATHERS would turn on their CHILDREN - CHILDREN on their PARENTS!
 - **Matthew 10:36** - "A mans enemies will be those of his own household."
 - If a stranger tells me to STOP talking about Jesus - I can easily IGNORE him...
 - I may NEVER see that person again - I do not have to LIVE with them...
 - But one of the hardest places to stand for Jesus is with FAMILY!
- Hated by all... vs. 22
 - You will be hated by all for My names sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved!
 - Jesus then make the broad statement - EVERYONE [πᾶς] would hate [passive] them...
 - NOT because of WHO they were - but because of the NAME of Jesus...
 - Yet those who ABIDE [ὑπομένω] to the END will be [indicative] SAVED!
 - Knowing what is coming - being SENT out into the HARVEST might seem like a bad idea...
 - We are NOT going to reach people who want the TRUTH...
 - We are being SENT into a world that HATES Jesus - and will HATE us because of Him...
 - But we can be a LIGHT to the world - as we CLING [abide] to Jesus - **John 15:5**
 - Knowing we are giving people the ONLY answer - the ONE way to be SAVED!
 - **Acts 4:12** - "There is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved."

o 4th - Flee... vs. 23

- Persecution...
 - When they persecute you in this city - flee to another.
 - The TWELVE were NOT to stick around if there was PERSECUTION...
 - The had to [imperative] FLEE to a different [ἄλλος] city...
 - Because PERSECUTION was a proof people were NOT open to the GOSPEL...
 - Therefore - they were to kick the DUST off their FEET - **Matthew 10:14**
- Jesus is coming...
 - Assuredly I say - will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes!
 - But Jesus gave them an incredible PROMISE - they would NOT go alone...
 - AMEN [ἀμήν] - the TWELVE would NEVER [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] get to EVERY city in Israel...
 - Before Jesus had come to JOIN them in sharing the Gospel!
 - **Matthew 11:1** - "When Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples - HE departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities."
 - Jesus calls us to go out and to SHARE the Gospel - KNOWING it will be hard...
 - But He does NOT ask us to go alone - He is ALWAYS there with us...
 - Meaning - the safest place we can be - is out sharing the LOVE of God along with Him!
 - **Matthew 28:20** - "I am with you always - even to the end of the age."

● 2ND - DO NOT FEAR... vs. 24-31

- o 1st - Name calling... vs. 24-25
 - Not greater... vs. 24-25
 - A disciple is not above his teacher - nor a servant above his master.
 - It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher - and a servant like his master!
 - Having told the TWELVE what would happen as they were SENT into the HARVEST...
 - Jesus went on to tell them WHY everyone would HATE them...
 - A DISCIPLE - SERVANT [them] was NOT greater than the TEACHER - MASTER [Jesus]
 - They should EXPECT people to treat them - the same way they treated Jesus!
 - The Lord...
 - If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub.
 - Jesus is the MASTER of the house - He is the creator of all Heaven and Earth - **John 1:3**
 - But the Jews had already called the MASTER - the LORD of the FLIES [בַּעַל זְבוּיִם]
 - Two thoughts behind the meaning of the name Beelzebub...
 - FIRST - Beelzebub was worshiped by the Philistines as a god of healing - **II Kings 1:2**
 - People who had open sores and wounds – would attract FLIES...
 - Beelzebub could command the FLIES to leave – taking away the sickness!
 - SECOND - God gave the name Beelzebub to the gods of the Philistines as an insult ...
 - FLIES are synonymous with manure – they hang around piles of it...
 - Beelzebub was a pile of a manure – and his worshipers the FLIES that stuck to him!
 - The Servants...
 - How much more will they call those of his household!
 - If the world is willing to call the MASTER Beelzebub - what will they call His SERVANTS!
 - If a THIEF is trying to break into a house to STEAL...
 - And someone SHINES a flashlight on the THIEF - he is not just angry at the LIGHT...
 - He also gets upset at the person HOLDING the LIGHT that is revealing his SIN!
 - The world hates Jesus because He convicts the world of their SIN...
 - Because men LOVE [ἀγαπάω] sin - they hate the LIGHT - **John 3:19-20**
 - And since we are carrying the LIGHT that they HATE – they also HATE us...
 - Being the FRIEND of Jesus - means being an ENEMY of this world!
 - **John 15:18-19** – “If the world hates you - know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world - the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world - but I chose you out of the world - therefore the world hates you.”
- o 2nd - Preach the Truth... vs. 26-27 [also **Luke 12:3-7**]
 - Nothing hidden... vs. 26
 - Therefore do not fear them.
 - For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed - and hidden that will not be known!
 - Therefore - since they KNEW why the WORLD would hate them [hate the LIGHT]
 - They were NOT [imperative] to fear men - they were to FEAR for them...
 - Because there is NO secret - nothing HIDDEN [no sin] - that will not be REVEALED...
 - REVEALED [ἀποκαλύπτω] - where we get the word APOCALYPSE!
 - One day ALL will stand before the throne of God to be judged - **Revelation 20:11-12**
 - There will be TWO sets of books opened - the BOOKS and the book of LIFE...
 - If our name is found written in the book of LIFE – then we are saved...
 - If not then the BOOKS are opened – and we are judged according to what God KNOWS!
 - **Hebrews 4:13** – “There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”
 - Into the Light... vs. 27
 - Whatever I tell you in the dark - speak in the light.

- And what you hear in the ear - preach on the housetops!
 - Rather than being AFRAID - the TWELVE were to PREACH [imperative]
 - Whatever Jesus had said to them in SECRET [dark] - they must speak in the OPEN [light]
 - Whatever was WHISPERED in their ear - they must PREACH on the rooftops!
 - There is only one way to be SAVED - faith comes by HEARING the WORD - **Romans 10:17**
 - We come to CHURCH - and we HEAR the WORD of God...
 - But people who do NOT come to church - do NOT know what the Bible says...
 - Therefore - when we leave CHURCH - we need to PROCLAIM what we have HEARD!
- o 3rd - Who to Fear... vs. 28
- Not men...
 - Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
 - The TWELVE were NOT [imperative] FEAR those who could kill their BODY...
 - Because men do NOT have the POWER [δύναμαι] to kill the SOUL!
 - When STEVEN was being stoned to death - he was NOT afraid...
 - Instead he prayed for those who MURDERED him...
 - Because he knew where he was going [heaven] - and he wanted them to come too!
 - **Acts 7:60** - "Lord - do not hold this sin against them!" [NIV]
 - The WORST thing someone could do to us - is send us to HEAVEN...
 - And that is NOT something we should be AFRAID of!
 - Fear God...
 - But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell!
 - Who they should FEAR was God - He has the POWER [δύναμαι] to DESTROY [ἀπόλλυμι]
 - He can kill the BODY - and send the SOUL to hell [γέεννα]
 - [γέεννα] - or the Valley of Hinnom – the southern valley of Jerusalem...
 - Where King Manasseh sacrificed children to the God Molech - **II Kings 23:10**
 - The valley was turned into a dump - where trash was cast out and burned...
 - Jesus uses the Valley as a picture for the Lake of Fire – final destination of who reject God!
 - The world today IGNORES the Bible – because they do not FEAR the Lord...
 - They do not FEAR the judgment seat – they do not FEAR the Lake of fire [eternal separation]
 - But there are only TWO kinds of people when it comes to God...
 - Those who FEAR the Lord and come to Jesus - and those who do NOT...
 - For those who REJECT Jesus - all that awaits them is certain and terrifying judgment!
 - **Hebrews 10:31** - "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God..."
- o 4th - More valuable... vs. 29-31
- Two sparrows... vs. 29
 - Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?
 - And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Fathers will!
 - Sparrows [small birds] were used by the POOR as a sacrifice - **Leviticus 5:11**
 - The reason is because they were CHEAP to buy - TWO for peso [οστάσιον]
 - Yet not ONE sparrow DIES [falls] - apart from the WILL of the FATHER!
 - Hairs on your head... vs. 30
 - The very hairs of your head are all numbered!
 - The Father also COUNTED every hair on their heads...
 - Admittedly - that is an easier job for some of us than others!
 - Do not fear... vs. 31
 - Do not fear therefore! You are of more value than many sparrows!
 - But SINCE God watches over SPARROW - and counts HAIRS...

- How much more would He take care of the TWELVE!
- Being called out into the HARVEST is not EASY...
- We are SENT out into a world that HATES the LIGHT [sheep among wolves]
- But people need to HEAR the TRUTH - they need to KNOW the LOVE of God...
- And as much as we might SUFFER for sharing the GOSPEL...
- We have NOTHING to FEAR - because Jesus is with us...
- And the God who watches over SPARROWS and HAIRS - will take care of us!