

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

## Do Not Fear Them, Fear Him!

Matthew 10:16-42

### Last week:

- The disciples called to go out
- “It don't need money, don't take fame Don't need no credit card to ride this train”
- Find those open to the gospel
- **Matthew 10:14 NKJV - "And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.**
- More tolerable for S&G

### Today:

- Beware of people
- Speak out, speak up, no matter what
- Not peace, but a sword

**Augustine says something different than we might expect  
“Many sheep without, many wolves within”**

It echoes some of what Jesus is about to teach us, as his disciples

**This is a bit of a training mission, a trial run to the great commission:**

(Jesus' authority was complete after the cross, the message was to go out into all the world then vs. just Israel now)

**Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

**[Pray]**

**10:16**

## Sheep in the midst of wolves (picture this)

**Sheep** - soft, wooly, cute, not exceptionally dangerous or fear-inspiring

**Wolves** - soft, furry, can be cute - but exceptionally dangerous and fear-inspiring

*Wolf howls...Lazy wolf howl*

## Picture a few sheep surrounded by a huge pack of wolves

### Christian, that's us in the world!

*You're a sheep, they're a wolf! They will eat you alive.*

### Do you ever feel vulnerable?

#### Physically

- Unarmed
- Weaker
- Head on a swivel
- Condition green, yellow, red

**In order to survive the wolves, a sheep must be observant.**

#### Emotionally

- Open, honest, real, down-to-earth
- Loving when not loved ... hated
- Can't let hurt turn to bitterness

**Hebrews 12:15 NKJV - looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;**

**In order to survive the wolves, a sheep must be calm, collected and honest**

**Honest with ourselves who we are, where we are, and who's we are  
And honest about who they are, where they are, and who's they are**

**"Wise as serpents, gentle as doves"**

(Gen 3 more cunning than any beast of the field)

**Mentally**

- Smart, logical, thinking, wise
- Not naive, dumb, foolish

**We do not check our brains at the door as Christians!**

**We have access to the highest logic!**

**The deepest wisdom!**

**Know it! Use it! Wield it!**

**In order to survive the wolves, a sheep must be wise**

**Spiritually**

- Know the scriptures
- Be prepared for battle (our sheep hooves are no match for wolf's teeth)
- Armored up

**Ephesians 6 - put on the full armor of God!**

**In order to survive the wolves, a sheep must have a Shepherd - the Good Shepherd**

**:17-20**

**Who are the wolves? Men (people)**

**Where will you be delivered and ...**

**Scourged!**

**IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES!**

**The first people to resist a real work of God are... the religious**

**Before governors and kings**

- For my sake
- As a witness to THEM

**When someone arrests you for praying outside an abortion clinic (UK)**

When someone sues you for not baking a cake (US)

**God has allowed you ... even chosen you ... to be a witness for HIM in that courtroom to the rulers and the accusers**

**Jesus says BUT BEWARE of men**

Give heed, be attentive to

*(the blue van)*

**It shouldn't catch us off guard**

**But we shouldn't walk naively into trouble**

This is big...in the gospel sense...you don't need a lawyer

You're to let God give you the words to say

No planning. No research.

**But answer as God gives.**

*Talk about trusting God in the moment!*

**John 14:26 NKJV - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

**:21-23**

**Where does the conflict of the believer start?**

**The sheep first encounter the wolves?**

**At home.**

**You were a wolf raised in a pack of wolves.**

**Then one day, God turned you into a sheep.**

**V21 children vs parents**

**This is seen a lot under dictatorships and communism**

**Turning their parents into the government**

*Laws passing across the country to remove parental rights - that somehow the government is*

*the caretaker of the child*

*Child doesn't like what the parents say or not let them do? Government will swoop in.*

**That's an evil government.**

**This is one of the saddest parts of the gospel.** Family who not only don't accept it, but reject it enough to bring physical harm on you. This is seen a lot in Islam and Asian religions.

**But remember, you are a witness to them!**

*He who endures to the end will be saved...Jesus echoes this in revelation.*

*Don't turn back on Jesus when even the closest family member turns on you.*

**:24-26**

**Is Jesus your master?**

**Is Jesus your teacher?**

**Did they call Jesus crazy?**

**Did they say he cast out demons by demons?**

**They will say the exact same thing about you.**

**Take it as a compliment.**

*(If they haven't, are you his student? Are you his servant?)*

**Why do we not fear them?**

Because at the right time God will reveal all. He already knows it all. He sees. He knows.

**Romans 12:19 NKJV - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.**

**:27-31**

Jesus says so much in so few words!

**Whatever I tell you in the dark**

There are things of God's word that He will reveal to you  
 Things you didn't see  
 Things you missed  
 Things you'll only see when spending that personal time with Him - in His Word

**What He shows you will always match up with the word**  
**There is no special revelation, private interpretation**

This is what we preach.  
 Don't hide it. Tell it where everyone can hear it.

**It's a private, personal relationship with Jesus**  
**But it's a public, outspoken faith**

**We're not to keep it to ourselves.**

**Who do we fear in life?**

- Bosses?
- The rich?
- The powerful?
- The government?
- The cool kids?

**When they hand us over to court or to worse...  
 they can only kill your body.**

**Phew! What a relief!! ... ..**

**But God has power over the second death - hell.  
 He's the one we should really fear. Really respect. Really honor.**

**And why? They don't value us. Only their power over us.**

**He values us. Each individually. Each personally, have immeasurable  
 value to Him.**

**:32-33**

## Peter

Denied Jesus, But was forgiven  
That was before the Holy Spirit  
He'd be crucified upside down

## Steven

First martyr, preached, full of the holy spirit

**Acts 7:54-60 NKJV - When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**

God stood in heaven for him  
Our salvation is not based on our witness  
But our witness is based on our salvation

## If we're saved, we'll stand

## When we stand, it's because He stands for us

It's been said "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything"

## :34-39

**Woah! Jesus didn't come to bring peace!  
But he's the prince of peace!**

Yes! But there is no peace between sin (rebellion) and God  
You can't be on both sides  
**There will be division.**

## We're not to love family?

No, we certainly love them - even better as believers than before  
But if it comes down to obeying them or obeying God  
Or following them or following God  
**We go with God.**

**Our family is the family of God now. (more on this in Matthew 12)**

**We won't truly find our lives until we lose them**

- The things we trust the most
- The things we love the most
- The people that matter the most
- The people that influence us the most

*Getting saved...*

God will take you away from those things or allow those things to be taken away so that you can have an opportunity to follow Him

**You can't hang on to your old life. The old you must be dead if you want to follow Jesus.  
"They left their nets"**

**:40-42**

**How to tell if someone loves God?**

Do they love the church (at large)?

Do they love His Word?

Do they love Him more than the people and things around them?

**Jesus is the image of the living God**

**"If you've seen me, you've seen the Father"**

**There is great reward in doing things for people  
in the name of God**

Even if you do it just because they're a Christian

Or do it just because it's a good example

**But do it, because you fear Him**

**And fear Him**

**Because you've seen Him**

**He who died and gave up His life so you could live.**