

SHEEP AMONG WOLVES
(Matthew 10:16-23)

- I. The MISSION (Matt. 10:16*a*)
 - A. The Apostles were His SHEEP
 - B. They would be ministering among WOLVES

- II. The MINDSET (Matt. 10:16*b*)
 - A. They must be “SHREWD as serpents”: PRUDENT and WISE
 - B. They must be “INNOCENT as doves”: NON-THREATENING and PURE

- III. The ADVERSARIES (Matt. 10:17-18)
 - A. General warning, “BEWARE of MEN” (17*a*)
 - 1. The ULTIMATE danger is from SPIRITUAL adversaries (Eph. 6:12)
 - 2. The IMMEDIATE danger is from HUMAN persecution
 - B. Will face ORGANIZED persecution
 - 1. By RELIGION (17*b*)
 - 2. By GOVERNMENT (18*a*)
 - 3. Because of CHRIST (18*b*)
 - C. Mostly predictive of FUTURE events

IV. The ASSISTANCE (Matt. 10:19-20)

A. The HELP that comes from the HOLY SPIRIT (20b)

B. Will be provided when NEEDED (19-20a)

1. When ARRESTED and CHARGED for the sake of Christ

2. Don't be ANXIOUS over what to SAY

V. The ANIMOSITY (Matt. 10:21-22a)

A. Will be BETRAYED by FAMILY

B. Will be HATED by SOCIETY

VI. The URGENCY (Matt. 10:22b-23)

A. Endurance to the END demonstrates that our FAITH is GENUINE

B. ESCAPE when it is EXPEDIENT and POSSIBLE

C. Keep MOVING and WITNESSING as long as they are ABLE