

**Mt.10.16-23 - Clear & Present Danger**  
**Matthew Series: 'THE KING IS COMING' #147**  
**October 31, 2021**

**I. The ANALOGY v.16a**  
**II. THE ATTITUDE v.16b**

In much ancient lore, **serpents** symbolize **W**\_\_\_\_\_.

Servants of the Lord are to be cunning in dealing with the unbelieving **W**\_\_\_\_\_.

It is not wise or spiritual to **N**\_\_\_\_\_ incite anger or cause trouble.

Doves represent being **P**\_\_\_\_\_, or **innocent**.

Being true to God's **W**\_\_\_\_\_ and should **N**\_\_\_\_\_ include, being abrasive, inconsiderate, or belligerent. Wisdom and innocence, cunning and gentleness, go hand and glove with **D**\_\_\_\_\_.

Innocence involves more than simply **A**\_\_\_\_\_ negative attitudes and approaches.

It also involves the positive attribute of **P**\_\_\_\_\_.

Godly wisdom is always the ally of **T**\_\_\_\_\_ and **R**\_\_\_\_\_.

Integrity and honesty are practical manifestations of **T**\_\_\_\_\_.

We are to be **L**\_\_\_\_\_ our Lord Himself, our great *"high priest, holy, innocent, unstained"* (He.7.26).

We are to **L**\_\_\_\_\_ our enemies and do good to those who hate us (Lk.6.27).

In **F**\_\_\_\_\_ our Lord's example, *"when reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we entreat"* (I Co.4.12-13).

**III. THE PERSECUTION vv. 17-18**

Jesus identifies the "wolves" and the areas in which they persecute believers in:

- ❖ **R**\_\_\_\_\_,
- ❖ **G**\_\_\_\_\_,
- ❖ **F**\_\_\_\_\_, &
- ❖ **S**\_\_\_\_\_ in general.

Being gentle is one thing; to **M**\_\_\_\_\_ his sin and his lostness apart from Christ is another.

To love our enemies is one thing; to **D**\_\_\_\_\_ they are enemies is quite another.

Jesus' purpose in warning about persecution was not to **F**\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles.

Their very mission was to **C**\_\_\_\_\_ the unsaved and **W**\_\_\_\_\_ them to Christ's kingdom.

Satan will enlist the support of every **U**\_\_\_\_\_ possible in his fight against God.

Jesus' purpose in this text was to **C**\_\_\_\_\_ the apostles, and all of His people not to be surprised.

**1. PERSECUTION BY R\_\_\_\_\_ v.17b**

Every Jewish village and town, and Jewish settlement had a **S**\_\_\_\_\_ - a gathering place.

Virtually all persecution of Christians was by **J**\_\_\_\_\_.

Many other religious groups, some bearing the **N**\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, will have oppressed, imprisoned, tortured, exiled, and killed countless millions of true believers.

Paul was opposed in Ephesus - the **S**\_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel cut income for silversmiths (Ac.19.24-29).

Religious persecution of believers has frequently been from w/i Christendom itself.

The final great persecution of God's people will be by the **W**\_\_\_\_\_ religious system (Re. 17.5-6).

All false religious systems had their beginnings at **B**\_\_\_\_\_.

Man's religions have always opposed and sought to destroy God's **T**\_\_\_\_\_.

One day they will culminate in an incredibly powerful ecumenical world religion that will relentlessly oppose the **G**\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and persecute His **P**\_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. PESECUTION BY **G**\_\_\_\_\_ v.18

It is not because of the sheep themselves but because of their **S**\_\_\_\_\_.

The world attacks us only when it sees Christ in us.

Because the Church is Christ's **B**\_\_\_\_\_, it is faithful believers in the Church who, like Paul, fill up "*Christ's afflictions*" (Co.1.24).

Saul had not seen Jesus during His earthly ministry, and yet Saul was **P**\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

Although government is established by God to **P**\_\_\_\_\_ social order, it has also become an **I**\_\_\_\_\_ of Satan.

Government is ordained by God but manipulated by Satan.

### **CONCLUSION:**

When its citizens turn away from the Lord and His standards, even the freest and most democratic of governments, will eventually inhibit the free

- ❖ expression and
- ❖ practice of the Christian faith in hostility to Christ and His Word.