

Sermon Notes – November 08, 2021
Clear & Present Danger
Mt.10.18-23 - "Persecution, Passion, and Peace"
Matthew Series: 'THE KING IS COMING' #148

Review: SHEEP among WOLVES

I. The ANALOGY v.16a

II. The ATTITUDE v.16b

III. The PERSECUTION vv.17-18

1.Persecution by Religion v.17b

2. PERSECUTION BY GOVERNMENT v.18

It is not because of the sheep themselves but because of their **Shepherd**.

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

Because the Church is Christ's **Body**, it is faithful believers in the Church who, fill up "*Christ's afflictions*" (Co.1.24).

Saul had not seen Jesus during His earthly ministry, & yet Saul was **persecuting** Jesus.

Although government is established by God

- to **preserve** social order,
- it has also become an **instrument** of Satan.

Government is ordained by God but manipulated by Satan.

When its citizens **turn away from the Lord** & His standards,

- ✚ even the freest & most democratic of governments,
- ✚ will eventually inhibit the free
 - ❖ expression &
 - ❖ practice of the Christian faith in hostility to Christ & His Word.

IV. THE PROVISION vv.19-20

When accused, the natural reaction is:

- ✓ To speak out in our **own** defense,
- ✓ To convince our accusers of our **innocence**.
- ✓ Those who suffer for Christ will be **defended** by Christ.
- ✓ God gives special clarity of mind & thought to present a **powerful** testimony.

V. THE HATRED

1. BY FAMILY v.21

It may be that one day believing parents will kill their children who are false prophets (Ze.13.3).

2. BY SOCIETY v.22

Some Christians are not persecuted simply because their testimony is so **weak**.

To **confront** the world (Ro.1.18) is to **guarantee** society's wrath against

- ✓ the Gospel &
- ✓ those who preach it.

Endurance does not produce/protect **salvation** - which is totally the work of God's grace.
Endurance is **evidence** of salvation, proof that a person is truly redeemed and a child of God.
(Mt.24.13; Jn.8.31; I Co.15.1-2; Co.1.21-23; He.2.1-3; 4.14; 6.11-12; 10.39; 12.14; II Pe.1.10)

Nothing is more spiritually purifying and strengthening than **persecution** (Ja.1.12).

We can count on such unshakable endurance. (Ro.8.35,37-39) - because God's Word assures us that absolutely nothing can **separate** us from Christ.

VI. THE RESPONSE v.23

Persecution is **never** to be sought or endured for its own sake;
Paul left a place when his **effectiveness** there ceased.

The disciples knew that Jesus was their **only** resource, (Jn.15.5).

Jesus continually turned nature into one grand **parable** of God's sovereignty, power, and love.

- ❖ He not only **taught** them, but
- ❖ He **cared** for them,
- ❖ **loved** them, &
- ❖ **provided** for them.

CONCLUSION:

The Lord would indeed send the twelve out among wolves. He promised to send His own Spirit to indwell, empower, & encourage them.

*"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart;
I have overcome the world" (Jn.16.33)*