



## World Christian Fellowship

[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)  
[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

### How the Sheep handle the Wolves!

#### Matthew 10:16-23

**Matthew 10:16-23**, *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. <sup>17</sup>But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup>You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>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; <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*

*<sup>21</sup>“Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup>And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*

Lord Jesus Christ, in **Matthew 10** is sending forth the Twelve. He is sending them into a hostile world. He has seen the harvest. He knows that laborers are needed. He asks them to pray, and then He sends the very ones He asked to pray.

### **Story of Pastor Ordination.**

Our Lord has ordained, commissioned, and sends them.  
Don't expect it to be easy.

These were the original missionaries, and they were sent with a very honest sending.

They have divine power on the one hand.  
On the other hand, they are sheep going into the midst of Wolves.

There is the tension of vulnerability, the power of God and the weakness of man.

They are going to have problems because the hating world will reject them. They need to know how to deal with those problems.

The passage telescopes from the moment in which our Lord was sending out the Twelve on the short-term first missionary assignment. It telescopes all the way to the time of the

tribulation, and there are principles here that can relate to believers facing a hostile world in any age.

**V 23** ends with the coming of the Son of Man.

Last week we saw 2 questions and answered them.

### **Who are the sheep?**

**V18**, *You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.*

**V 22**, *And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.*

Apostles are the Sheep.

Anyone who goes for the sake of Jesus Christ.

### **Who are the wolves?**

**V 17**, *"Beware of men."*

**V 22**, *"You will be hated of all men."*

The wolves then are men.

## **How do the wolves attack?**

### **1. Religion**

**V 17**, *But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.*

Sometimes with whips, but most often with rods strapped together that flail against the flesh.

*“Synagogue”* in **V 17** a religious context.

The Jews had synagogues, meeting places, gathering places that is what the word really means.

They had gathering places in every town and every village. In the synagogue, they would carry out their own law.

If someone violated their law, the law of Moses, or their rabbinical tradition, they would be brought before the local synagogue.

There was a tribunal of **23 judges** who would render a verdict. When those judges had rendered a verdict, a sentence would be carried out, and very frequently the sentence amounted to scourging or smashing this band of sticks together into the back which flayed and flagellated the skin.

The Old Testament law had required no more than 40 such stripes to be given.

**Deuteronomy 25:3**, *Forty blows he may give him and no more, lest he should exceed this and beat him with many blows above these, and your brother be humiliated in your sight.*

They always gave 39 just to be sure they were within the letter of the law.

One judge would call out the sentence.

Next judge would call out the number to be given.

Next judge would count and say, "One"

The person would be hit.

Next judge would count.

Next judge would say, "Two"

The person would be hit.

Next judge again would count.

They were involved in the carrying out of this punishment.

While the punishment was carried out, they would read appropriate Scripture, or they would even sing psalms. So, it was a part of the function of the synagogue to discipline.

They would beat the people in the front of the whole congregation.

Lord says, "You can expect this."

They will deliver you up to the council.

The council there has reference to these local courts in the synagogues which found their supreme court in the Sanhedrin

in Jerusalem. One can expect that they will be scourged in the synagogue.

By the way that did happen.

**Acts 22:19**, *So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. <sup>20</sup>And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.'*

Paul was engaged in doing that, going from synagogue to synagogue, dragging in the Christians and scourging them for heresy.

**2 Corinthians 11:24**, *From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.*

Probably all five of those happened in synagogues someplace. So, it did happen in the early Church.

The man with a message from God must undergo the hatred and enmity of a religion. The fact of the matter is that our Lord Jesus Christ was sentenced by religionists.

It was men of religion who wanted to get rid of Him. Chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, and elders. The religionists were the ones who wanted Jesus dead.

The Jews persecuted the Christians up until 70 A.D.

After the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., we have no record of Jewish persecution of Christians up until the present day even.

It is probably true that there have been times where a Jewish person has come to Christ in a family. There may have been some other isolated persecutions, but there's been no wholesale persecution of Christianity by Judaism since 70 A.D.

There may be a coming persecution of Christians in the Holy Land itself. They are making laws rather rapidly now to stop the spread of Christianity over there, and it could come to the point where the government would persecute Christianity.

Our Lord says that you can expect persecution from Jewish sources.

But also, I must admit that I am not antisemitic. People I love most in the whole wide world are all Jewish. Jesus, Paul, Peter, all their friends. Next to my wife and kids, I spend more time, I think, with Jesus and Paul than anybody in the world. They are just as alive to me as any of you.

The Jews would persecute the Christians, and they have done that. But they are representative of religious persecution. There will be other councils, and there will be other gathering

places of religionists that will persecute Christianity. We see that all through history.

The time of the apostle Paul, the Romans persecuted the Christians religiously, because they were involved in so many pagan religions.

For example, in the Roman world, you had in the city of Ephesus the worship of Diana or Artemis. When the Gospel was preached there in **Acts 19**, they put the idol makers out of business and a riot broke out, and persecution started against Christians because they were affecting the religion of the day.

The Romans were committed to emperor worship. Christianity posed a tremendous threat to the worship of the emperor. **Pliny, the governor of Bithynia**, wrote that he was taking steps to check the rapid growth of Christianity, because Christianity was growing so rapidly that the pagan temples were doing a low business. Nobody was buying sacrificial animals, and idols. They had to stamp out Christianity because it was affecting their religion.

The demons that had influenced the pagan people living out in the bush country of foreign mission fields who massacred missionaries repeatedly.

Throughout all human history that religion has killed true believers because Satan is behind that false religious system. He desires to wipe out the Church.

Even within Christianity, the false people in Christianity would be happy to kill the true.

**Acts 20:29**, *“I know that from among you shall rise wolves, not sparing the flock.”*

Things had been done even in the name of Christianity against true Christians, as well as in the name of Judaism, as well as in the name of paganism.

Religion is a persecutor.

**Revelation 17**, when all is summed up, in the ultimate and final persecution. It will happen in the tribulation, and the true saints will be being massacred all over the place.

**Revelation 17:5**, *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

The false form of final world religion, it all came from Babel. It was at Babel that false religion found its form. When the Lord scattered them all from Babel, they took the roots of the

religion of Babel, the mystery religions of Babylon and spread them all around the globe.

You can take all the pagan religions of the world, and you can trace them back to that original false system. They started at Babel. They spread around the world. They come together in an incredibly satanic ecumenism, and the final form of world religion is seen, all brought together.

**Revelation 17:6**, *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement.*

One thing is for sure, false religious systems have made themselves drunk on the blood of the saints.

- That has been true,
- That is true, and
- That will ultimately be true.

As they slaughter and massacre the believers even in the time of the tribulation. We shouldn't be surprised.

**Matthew 7:15**, *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*

Ravenous wolves coming in the name of religion.

Satan disguises himself.

**2 Corinthians 11:14**, *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

Watch out for religion.

Religion masks itself as respectable, but it is a persecutor of the truth. It does everything to destroy the truth. If it has the authority to do that it will take your life too because it is run by Satan who is a liar and a murderer.

## **2. Government.**

**V18**, *You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.*

Not only is religion going to be a persecutor, but government as well.

Governors like **Pilate, Felix, and Festus** in biblical days.

Any lesser than a king, any government official.

Kings even, monarchs such as **Agrippa I, Agrippa II, Herod Antipas**, and others in the bible.

*“You will be brought before them for a testimony.”*

God has in mind that you will proclaim the truth.

When you are brought before them to give that testimony, whether it's a testimony of positive message to the Gospel, or whether it's an indicting testimony to condemn them, just realize you will be brought before them.

Government, the state will persecute.

Romans did that, apart from their religion.

The Romans had trouble of the thought about the slave rebellion. They had 60 million slaves in Rome.

They taught that slaves and free people could never marry because a slave wasn't considered a person. Such a marriage was totally illegal in the Roman system.

But when people became Christians, they were immediately confronted with truth that said there is neither slave nor free. So, they saw Christianity as an imminently dangerous problem because it gave slaves equality with everybody else. They could see that there could become a slave rebellion.

If they could even imagine **60 million** slaves revolting, it would be enough to scare them to death.

So, they were threatened by Christianity. They began to make up charges against the Christians such as they accused them of

cannibalism. They misinterpreted the eating of the flesh and the blood of Christ in the communion.

- They accused them of immorality in their love feasts.
- They accused them of a revolution because their eschatology taught that the earth would be destroyed by fire.
- They even blame them for burning Rome.
- They accused them of disloyalty to the emperor because they wouldn't bow down to him.
- They accused them of breaking up marriages and destroying the family.

Anything they could do, they moved against them because they were so panicked by the liberation of slaves to an equality that it might destroy their empire.

The Roman Empire did persecute the Christians. Most of these disciples who heard Jesus say this, died at the hands of the Roman government or some ancillary government.

The government will attack the Church. It will!

It has through all its history. Governments small and big, weak ones and powerful ones, ones dominated by men in groups, ones dominated by individual men throughout history have persecuted the Church.

- You think about **Russia** and the slaughter of Christians that occurred after the revolution there.
- You think about **China**, the slaughter of Christians that occurred there.
- You think about **Ethiopia and Uganda**, where the government of Uganda, under Idi Amin, just massacred Christians.

Governments have persecuted the saints. They will continue to do that.

In the end, tribulation time, the government of Antichrist will do exactly that. Antichrist coming to his full power and beginning to exercise his power.

**Revelation 13:7**, *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

Antichrist will go forth and kill with a sword.

Throughout all the history of the Church, there has been this same reaction toward the truth.

Government, as an entity, is ordained by God for the preservation of social structure. The government is a representation of Satan's work, because he is the one animating the actual function.

God keeps government together and enough restraint in government to preserve human society. But it also manifests the control of Satan.

So, there's a very interesting tension that government is ordained of God yet manipulated by Satan himself.

That is **why Daniel, Isaiah, and Ezekiel**, saw behind the government's demonic forces. Governments will persecute Christianity because Satan is the prince of this world.

### **3. Family.**

**V 21**, *"Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.*

Persecution also comes through the family.

**V 36-37**, *and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

I have known people who came to Jesus Christ, and their family had a funeral service for them.

Only God knows how many people have killed their own kind. Only God knows how many Christians were betrayed in the persecutions in the second and third centuries in Rome, how many Christians turned their parents in, how many parents turned their children into the government.

Only God knows in how many countries, throughout the history of the world, people have revealed to the authorities that one or another of their family were Christians, and they had turned them over to be slaughtered.

Only God knows how many people who were eaten by the lions were there because they had been turned in by members of their own family.

If you are looking in your family for some solace, you might find the worst enemy right there in your own house.

Stronger than natural love is the love of God, and stronger than natural love is the love of hell. That is what makes people in **Romans 1** forsake natural affection, because they are so evil.

Future time of the coming of Messiah, after the Valley of Megiddo the time of salvation for Israel.

**Zechariah 13:3**, *It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the Lord.' And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies.*

Parents will kill their false prophet children. Unbelievable conflict in the family. Jesus said He came not to bring peace, but a sword, to set a man against his father. Families become persecutors, and that maybe hurts the most deeply.

This will happen in the tribulation. Families will be set against each other.

Our Lord did teach in the Olivet Discourse. The context this time is the tribulation. It is a tribulation context.

**Mark 13:12-14**, *Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>13</sup>And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. <sup>14</sup>"So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

In the Olivet Discourse, He says it is especially how it's going to be during the time of the tribulation. The time of the tribulation is going to see the revealing of the same thing.

We are to be persecuted.

The world reacts.

- Religion reacts because it's generated by Satan.
- Government reacts because it's in the control of the prince of the power of the air, the ruler of this world.
- Families react because they cannot tolerate a righteous individual in the midst of their unrighteousness.

The wolves are going to do all they can to slaughter the sheep.

### **What are the sheep supposed to do in response?**

#### **1. Be wise.**

**V 16**, *Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

In Egypt, the serpent is the symbol of wisdom. The ancients saw a serpent as wise, keen mind, cunning, smart, prudent, always, using great skill and caution to avoid danger.

The idea speaks of shrewdness, cautiousness, wariness, having a circumspect perspective.

**Colossians 4:5**, *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.*

Use wisdom in dealing with the wolves. Use wisdom in dealing with the world around you.

**What kind of wisdom?**

The anticipation, sensitivity, cunning, cautiousness, wariness, the shrewdness of a serpent.

Say the right thing at precisely the right time and the right place.

As we confront a hostile world, we must be wise. There is no sense in just creating havoc all around us.

You know they are temper.

You know they are anti-Christian.

You know they don't want your message.

So, you must be careful how you approach them. You must use wisdom.

**Matthew 22:15-22**, *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. <sup>16</sup>And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not <sup>19</sup>regard the person of men. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay*

taxes to Caesar, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" <sup>21</sup>They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left Him and went their way.

Jesus didn't compromise the truth, but He was wise enough not to say everything that could be said to perpetrate something that wasn't supposed to happen.

Be wise. Find the best way to handle a confrontation, the best way to handle a conflict. Be careful. The one who faces a hostile world should avoid offensive situations.

Don't court trouble.

Don't just make trouble.

Don't just wreak havoc.

Some people become Christians and immediately get fired from their job, and they say it's persecution, and all it is stupidity. Be careful and be wise.

## **2. Be Innocence**

**V 16, *Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.***

Can't imagine being threatened by an attack from a dove.

It seems rather harmless. Lovely little white dove. But there's more than just harmlessness.

Christians are not to go on creating harm, creating issues, creating problems.

Christians are not to be running through the world just fighting back and crushing people and devastating people and being obtrusive and ugly and blatant.

They are to be harmless. They are to be gentle.

But more than that, the concept here is purity.

The concept is innocence.

**Song of Solomon 5:2, *I sleep, but my heart is awake; It is the voice of my beloved! He knocks, saying, "Open for me, my sister, my love, My dove, my perfect one; For my head is covered with dew, My locks with the drops of the night."***

The dove was a symbol of undefiled, the symbol of purity, of holiness, of innocence.

So, while we are wise, we are also pure.

While we seek a wise route, we never compromise the truth!

They have a twofold thing.

- We don't fight back
- We don't compromise truth either.

But sometimes we don't have to say all that could be said in a sarcastic manner. Be not only wise and shrewd but be so in a way that doesn't compromise.

Don't lose your purity.

Don't tell a lie.

Have integrity and honesty and purity.

A dove is gentle, pure, and uncorrupted and sincere in the imagery. Those who represent Christ are not to cause injury.

They are not to do things to deserve injury.

We are not to employ trickery or deceit in trying to escape from danger.

**Luke 6:27**, *"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,*

Maintain your wisdom, your purity, your harmlessness. Show a spirit of gentleness.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**, *For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;<sup>20</sup> and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win*

*Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;<sup>21</sup> to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;<sup>22</sup> to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.<sup>23</sup> Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.*

You must be discrete.

While you are being discrete, you never compromise your truth. So, you maintain your purity.

**1 Peter 2:21-23**, *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: <sup>22</sup>“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; <sup>23</sup>who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;*

Find that perfect place between the two.

When Jesus was cursed, He didn't curse back. When they were doing all, they were doing to Him on the cross, He just stood there and forgave them their sin. Such gentleness.

### **3. Be alert.**

**V 17**, *But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.*

Be on your guard.

Be watchful.

Be perceptive.

Men who are the agents of the devil.

All men those who are not regenerated they are after something.

There are some forums are wrong for the proclamation of the Gospel. You must understand the intention of evil men.

You must be watchful and discerning and seek to avoid those kinds of things that discredit.

Let me share an example where Apostle Paul failed in this.

**Acts 23:1-3**, *Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." <sup>2</sup>And the high priest Ananias commanded those who stood by him to strike him on the mouth. <sup>3</sup>Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?"*

Paul had that in him all the time. He just kept it under control.  
*God smite you, you whited wall.*

**Acts 23:4-5**, *And those who stood by said, “Do you revile God’s high priest?”* <sup>5</sup>*Then Paul said, “I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written, ‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.’”*

Paul wasn’t alert.

He wasn’t in control.

Be careful. Don’t give those wolves an opportunity to condemn you. Don’t play in their court.

Evil intention is behind the system, and they want to make you compromise. Beware.

#### **4. Be calm.**

**V 19**, *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;*

When they haul you into the council’s and the courts, and they threaten your life, don’t you be anxious. Just be calm.

To be arrested and persecuted is a very traumatic experience.

**How can we be calm?**

*do not worry about how or what you should speak.*

**How am I going to get out of this?**

**What can I say?**

*For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;*

You have nothing to worry about, because God will give you what you are going to say.

When you are arrested, to feeling shame and other emotions, you immediately would worry about your defence.

**How am I going to defend myself?**

So, Jesus says to the apostles listen very carefully to what I say.

You just go about your business ministering.

You don't worry about what's going to happen.

You be wise and be harmless and beware and minister.

If it comes to the point where you are hauled before the councils, I will take care of that. So, you are free. You don't have to have your hip pocket defence all ready. You just relax and be calm.

Drop all worry completely.

**Philippians 4:6**, *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

Jesus says there's a reason.

*For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;*

Anybody, at any age, in any time, when they go before this kind of a thing for the name of Jesus Christ, the spirit of God will bring it to his mind the right thing to say.

From their learning and their study of the Scripture, the Spirit of God will pull out things, and He will be our defender.

Lord would not abandon us in that kind of situation.

Personally, I have not prepared myself for any TV interview or any Q&A since I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit will give me the utterance what I should speak.

There is something specific for the apostles that is not even for us.

**V 20**, *for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*

A promise to the apostles of divine inspiration.

Beyond the general ramifications of this concept, that the Lord will give us from our recall and so forth what we ought to say.

These men the promise of divine inspiration.

When Stephen stood before the ones who took his life, he spoke the Word of God.

When Paul stood before the ones who brought him to trial, he spoke the Word of God.

If God gave them the very words to speak, in the moment they were brought before the councils of men, and it was not them speaking, but it was the Spirit of their Father speaking.

If God promised them that in the moment they met a council, how much more can we know that when they sat down to pen the Word of God, they could claim the same promise?

It is promised that they will be verbally inspired.

Be wise, be harmless, beware, be calm. For the apostles, that meant inspiration. For us it means enlightenment and recall as God recalls what we should say.

## **5. Be real.**

**V 22**, *And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*

If you make it through persecution, you get saved. If you survive the persecution, you are the one being delivered.

In other words, it is not saying that people who can make it through persecution can hold onto their salvation. It is saying that endurance through persecution is the hallmark of genuine salvation.

You can tell the ones that are really saved.  
They survive.

When the persecution begins, the church gets holier.  
Nothing is more purifying to the Church than persecution.  
Be the one who endures to the end, one who is truly saved.

**Romans 2:7**, *eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honour, and immortality;*

Eternal life is given to those who continue in well doing. They are not saved by continuing in well doing, they prove their salvation in their continuing.

You are not saved because you endured.  
You endured because you were truly saved.

**Hebrews 3:14**, *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*

You can tell one truly committed to Christ because he's true to the end.

**John 14:15**, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

**1 John 2:19**, *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*

So, continuance is the proof of being a real Christian.

## **Conclusion.**

**Is there anything that can destroy you?**

No, nothing.

There is no fearful persecution that can touch you.

**What shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Romans 8:35-39**, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." <sup>37</sup>Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor*

*powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**V 23**, *When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*

Just keep moving till He gets here. “Be gone” means don’t just stay in one place until they kill you. Leave.

Go to another place because you will never cover all the places before the Lord comes. Keep moving. There’s no sense in beating a dead horse.

Shake the dust off your feet, as He said in **verses 14 and 15**, and get out.

There’s no sense in standing around, taking harassment, persistent persecution till you die.

Paul preached, started a riot, left town to another town. When the riot caught him in the next town, he went to the next town. The riot caught him there, he went to the next town. He just kept moving. He wasn’t going to stand there and die. Life is too precious.

Too many towns to reach, too much to be done.

We got to keep moving.

We will never cover it all before the Son of Man comes.

**What is the sum of our Lord's instruction to us?**

We have no right to provoke animosity.

We have no right to provoke destruction.

There's too much work to be done, too many places to reach.

Life is too precious.

Every one of us matters to God's kingdom.

We have got to move to the receptive places and keep moving and know that all the while God is with us.

In the power of the Spirit, He will help us to say the right things and to have the effect that He wants us to have.

**We are sheep among wolves.**

**Sheep are protected by Collar with poison story.**

*Zechariah 2:8, For thus says the Lord of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.*

If you think it's tough on the sheep, from God's end, it's tough on the wolves for what they are doing to the sheep. God will make it right in the end.

No matter what Satan does, even to death, he cannot win with God's sheep.