

## **Gospel of Matthew “You Can Only Be Killed”**

**Matthew 10:16-31**

**March 5, 2023**

Traveling and Trouble Instructions.

Matthew 10:16-31

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Have No Fear

26 “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.[h] 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Sheep in the midst of wolves.

Beware of men.

Matthew 10:21-22

21 “Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake.”

“For my name sake.”

The Gospel is offensive.

Don't bring on unnecessary persecution.

The privilege of being “sent” by Jesus.  
The presence of God will be with as you go and witness.  
A future vindication.

#### Matthew 10:26-27

26 “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.”

A life sent is a life liberated.

#### Matthew 10:28

28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Your life has incredible value to God.

#### Matthew 10:29-31

29 “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Jesus uses three animal metaphors to describe Christians; sheep, serpents and doves? What do you think each of those mean. Which one seems most challenging to identify with?
- In your experience, has sharing the gospel ever gotten you into trouble? Has it ever strained relationships (ie. family, friends, or work)?
- What is your biggest obstacle to sharing your faith and introducing Christ into the conversation?
- Why do you think Jesus would share so much caution and bad news as he is sending out the disciples?
- How have you gauged success or failure when sharing your faith and spreading the gospel?
- There are blessings woven through Jesus’ send out. Read Matthew 10:16-31 and highlight one that encourages you?
- Close your time by praying for a willingness to experience trouble for the gospel and to trust the Father deeply when things are difficult.