

Jesus Instructs His Twelve Apostles

Matthew 10:16-20

Intro:

- A. **Jesus called His twelve apostles.**
 - 1. He called them to Himself.
 - 2. He gave them authority over unredeemed spirits, to cast them out, to heal confirmed diseases and all kinds of physical complaints.
- B. **Jesus commanded them.**
 - 1. Not to go to the Gentiles or Samaritans.
 - 2. To go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
 - 3. They were to preach, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - 4. Theirs was a very special mission, limited in almost every sense.
- C. **Jesus instructed them as to the manner of their reception in the world.**
 - 1. They are to be non-aggressive.
 - 2. They are to be non-confrontational.
 - 3. These are not the manner of behavior that they are to adopt after Pentecost. They are to be bold in their witnessing.

I. The Twelve And Their Behavior In Their Mission.

- A. **"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves..." v.16**
 - 1. behold = ἰδοὺ = see!
 - 2. midst = μέσος = "middle"
 - 3. sheep = πρόβατον = whatever goes forward, moves its limbs forward in going, quadrupeds, used in the N.T. only as sheep.
- B. **"..be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."**
 - 1. wise = φρονιμος = "understanding", "thoughtful", "practically wise," "sensible," "prudent."
 - 2. The serpent is wise in that he is non-aggressive. They seldom even attack. They

avoid humans and other enemies as much as possible.

3. harmless = ακεραϊος = "unmixed", "pure," "guileless", "simple". They should be uncomplicated in their personalities. A dove was a simple, trusting bird. They were not like hawks or vultures.

II. How Men Will Treat Them.

A. **"But beware of men..." v.17**

1. beware = προσεχω = "to hold to, bring near" "to bring near to"; "to turn one's mind to a thing"
2. "...they will deliver you up to the councils"
3. "...they will scourge you in their synagogues."
4. scourge = μαστιγωω = "to whip", "to flog."
(The Jews used a whip with three thongs on its end. This helped in counting. They were not to exceed 40. Using this whip they could count 13 blows, this would be 3 x 13 or 39, one less than 40.

B. **They will be brought before varied persons. V.18**

1. brought = αγω = "to lead", "to lead along"
2. governors = ηγεμιον = any person who governs. Proconsul, legate, procurator.
3. kings
4. for my sake = (for my cause) (in my place)
5. testimony = μαρτυριον = "the declaration which confirms or makes known any thing."

III. What To Say Before Governors And Kings And Councils And Synagogues.

A. **"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak" v.19**

1. deliver = παραδιδομι = "to give near, with or to anyone"
2. take no thought = μεριμναω = "to be anxious," "to have anxiety", "be full of distracting cares"
3. "Never trouble yourselves about how to speak or what to say." - Mof
4. "...manner and wording of defense..." - Rhieu

- B. **"...for it shall be given you in tat same hour what you shall speak."**
1. "...words will be give you when the time comes." - Knox
 2. Acts 4:5-7
 3. Some of what they would speak would become a part of the new Testament. Such is not true of us today.
- C. **"For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." V.20**
1. speak = λαλεω = "to lay before", "to relate"
 2. "For it will not be really you who are speaking" - Phi
 3. Acts 4:8 - "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them..."
- D. **The same is not true of us today.**
1. We are to study the Bible.
 2. God has already given us what to say.
 3. God has told us how to say it.