



Title: The Mission of the King (part 3) – The Lord’s Perspective on Persecution

Text: Matt. 10:16-28

16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. 24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? 26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27 What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Introduction:

1. The Lord Jesus begins to instruct His apostles (sent ones) concerning the challenges of the ministry.
2. This will mark the start of the second of five discourses in the book of Matthew. (5-7, Sermon on the Mount, 10 Sermon on Missions, 13 Sermon on the Mysteries/Parables, 18 Sermon on the Matter of Church, and 24-25 Sermon on Mount of Olives/end times)

I. The Pastoral Scene (v.16)

- A. They were sent by the Lord.
- B. They were as sheep in the midst of wolves.
- C. They were to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

II. The Persecutors (vv.17-18)

- A. “Beware of men”
- B. Religious Persecution
- C. Governmental Persecution
- D. Valid reason: “For my name’s sake”
- E. Purpose: “For a testimony against them”

III. The Principles to Practice in Persecution (vv.19-28)

- A. The Spirit will be their defense. God will deliver.
- B. Families will be divided.
- C. Flee persecution.
- D. The Master/Disciple Principles
- E. Do not fear the persecutors – body & soul is God’s prerogative.

Conclusion:

1. In any and all eras of Christianity there shall always be persecution.
2. How shall we prepare for such events?
3. May the Lord strengthen us by His grace to meet the challenges of our day.